Hafa Adai!

Shake-and-bake style to cook meth gets men 15 years. PAGE 2
Atalig bid to not include other trips in trial under advisement. PAGE 3

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 53

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY MARCH 18, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

Chinese workers sue IPI for alleged forced labor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Berline

Seven construction workers from China who filed a lawsuit in federal court last December against a contractor over their injuries due to accidents at the casino construction worksite in Garapan have amended their complaint and now include Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC as one of the defendants.

The seven, through counsel Bruce Berline, claimed they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions.

The seven filed the original lawsuit in federal court last December. They sued Gold Mantis Construction Decora-

See CHINESE on Page 4

Death toll rises to 50 in NZ shootings

A mourner leaves a memento at a makeshift memorial near the Linwood mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, Saturday, March 16, 2019.
AP

By NICK PERRY and JULIET WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—The death toll in the massacres at two New Zealand mosques rose to 50 on Sunday after police found another victim while removing bodies from the crime scenes, and authorities announced they do not believe three people who had been arrested were involved in the shootings allegedly carried out by a 28-year-old white supremacist.

Police Commissioner Mike Bush also said that 36 people are still hospitalized and that two of them are in criti-

See DEATH on Page 4

Christchurch, New Zealand
Population: 388,400
Religious demographics:
- **No religion:** 45.5%
- **Christian:** 47.5%
- **Buddhist:** 1.3%
- **Hindu:** 1.0%
- **Muslim:** 0.8%

Graphic: Tribune News Service
Source: Christchurch City Council

Colombo bids Saipan adieu

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabrielle Colombo spends his 56th birthday and last few hours at the Hyatt last Friday. "I will miss Saipan and all the people that made my 14 years of stay worthwhile," he said.
BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabrielle Colombo hung his chef jacket last Friday, ending 14 years of building the culinary scene on Saipan.

That same moment was also Colombo's 56th birthday, which he spent putting a close to overseeing all the restaurants at Hyatt Regency Saipan, while helping the CNMI become a favored tourist destination and teaching young chefs over the years.

"I've had a wonderful ca-

See COLOMBO on Page 4

IN FIRST 2 DAYS OF EARLY VOTING

Only 266 cast early votes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The turnout was low during the first two days of the seven-day early voting for the special election for a Precinct 3 seat in the House of the Representatives.

Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Kayla Igitol said yesterday that 170 cast their votes at the Garapan Community Development Center during

See VOTES on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Jollibee, the largest and fastest growing Asian restaurant, is soon opening in Guam.
PAGE 14

ASIA
About 6.8 million people have been affected by a water shortage in Manila.
PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
A painting by Willem de Kooning worth $100 million is going on display.
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Shake-and-bake style to cook meth gets men 15 years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two men who pleaded guilty to being involved in a clandestine crystal methamphetamine lab that used the so-called shake-and-bake method were slapped Friday with 15 years imprisonment each.

After serving the prison term, Vincent David Cabrera Jr. and Eugene Blas Repeki Jr. will be placed on three years of probation.

During probation, they will be required to perform 100 hours of community service. They were also ordered to pay $100 in court assessment fee, with credit for the time they have already served in prison.

"You victimized the people around you," U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona told the two.

Cabrera was cited as the one who had a prior experience in the shake-and-bake method while in Guam, that he brought it here, and there were testimonies that other people learned the technique from him.

For Repeki, Manglona said he has already been given a second chance as he was convicted before for murder, but his 30-year prison sentence was aborted as he was paroled. Yet, Manglona said, Repeki continued violating the law.

Repeki was convicted in 2000 of murder in the second degree in connection with the fatal beating of a Filipino security guard in Chalan Kanoa in 1999.

In 2001, then-Superior Court associate judge Timothy H. Bellas slapped Repeki with a 30-year prison term. The CNMI Board of Parole granted his request for parole in March 2010.

Manglona pointed out that there are defendants who served more than 10 years in prison but still managed to return as productive members of the community.

"I do hope you change your life. It's up to you now," the judge said.

The remaining charges were dismissed.

Before they were sentenced, Cabrera and Repeki addressed the court.

Cabrera said he is very remorseful. "To my children and family, forgive me," Cabrera said.

Repeki apologized to the court, his children, wife, family, and to the community.

Repeki said his addiction to crystal meth has caused nothing but grief to his family.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe had recommended a sentence of 240 months or 20 years in prison each for Cabrera and Repeki.

Backe said the court has to send a strong message to the community to deter other people who may also commit the same crime.

Backe said the shake-and-bake method is now spreading in the CNMI, that what were heard in court from the defendants were "empty pleas for mercy."

Benjamin Petersburg and Steven Pixley, the court appointed counsel for Cabrera and Repeki, both recommended a sentence of 10 years imprisonment each.

Cabrera and Repeki signed a plea deal with the U.S. government. Last September, Cabrera pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. Repeki plead guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of not more than a 20-year term of imprisonment, a fine not to exceed $1 million, not less than a three-year term of supervised release, restitution, and a $100 special penalty assessment.

According to Cabrera's factual admissions, between on or July 1, 2017 and Feb. 25, 2018, he, along with Repeki, Rick Urumelog Omar Jr., Sidney Capelle Kani, and others, agreed to manufacture methamphetamine.

Cabrera said they would smoke the manufactured methamphetamine, as well as sell and/or give to other people.

SPORTS LOTTERY
RESULTS
Over $117,000 in prizes won in the CNMI.
DRAW NUMBER 3929
PACIFIC GOLD
DRAW DATE 3/16/2019
WINNING NUMBERS
42 15 31 12 1 8
Next draw JACKPOT $2 MILLION
Get your tickets NOW!
Visit our NEW website:
www.nmsalottery.com
Now available on Android and IOS devices.

Physician visits Saipan after 15 years

A senior resident physician at the University of California San Francisco is on a visit to Saipan after being away for 15 years.

Leslie Palacios-Helgeson, senior resident physician at the UCSF, spoke of her journey at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday. She was born and raised on Saipan before moving to UCSF to pursue medicine.

"Having grown up on family farms and life-and-death circumstances, I have always been interested in medicine," she said. Palacios-Helgeson went to the Gonzaga University to pursue biology and philosophy as her pre-med.

"I did basic science in endometrial cancer for four years in Colorado before getting my medical degree," she added, before ultimately deciding to become an obstetrics-gynecology specialist. She is now at UCSF doing her sub-specialty training in OB-GYN.

Palacios-Helgeson is currently doing some volunteer work at the Commonwealth Health Center through a program at the UCSF where senior resident physicians are brought to rural areas to provide healthcare.

"…A lot of women would go to their primary care providers and they won't be comfortable talking about women's issues—birth control, peripartum period, cervical cancer screenings, etc. They end up coming to [ob-gyn specialists]," she said.

"…A few more years of [training] and I am hoping to come back to the CNMI and serve again before 15 years is up," she added.

Palacios-Helgeson told *Saipan Tribune* that she would be at CHCC until March 27, 2019. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

FOR EVERY ICED TEA ORDERED,
10¢ WILL BE DONATED TO MARIANAS
MARCH AGAINST CANCER
Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
Home of the Best Fried Rice
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association
Marianas March Against Cancer 2019

Atalig bid to not include other trips in trial under advisement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bid by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig to not include evidence relating to three other trips has trial has been placed under advisement.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said Friday she will issue a written decision.

She set a pretrial conference for May 8, 2019, and that she will not entertain any requests for telephonic appearances at the conference.

The trial will start on June 4.

At the hearing last Friday, David Banes and Steven Pixley, the court-appointed counsels for mayor Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, asked that their clients be excused for the hearing.

Manglona accepted the waivers, stating she just received Evelyn Atalig's joinder in the mayor's motion to exclude evidence.

In mayor Atalig's motion, Banes pointed out that each of the five trips in which the Ataligs have been charged can be presented to the jury at the trial without referencing any other trips. He described the U.S. government's bid to cite the other three trips as a "shotgun approach," that the U.S. government not met its burden of proof that those three other trips are bad acts on the part of the Ataligs.

Banes conceded that the mayor indeed went on those five trips, but that he attended all trips for legitimate purposes.

He questioned the prosecution's need to introduce evidence about the three additional trips since the Ataligs were not charged for those trips.

Banes argued that evidence of the mayor's three additional trips simply does not prove what the U.S. government wants to prove in the indictment against the mayor and, to the contrary, it will possibly only confuse the jury.

He said the prosecution has difficulties articulating a logical claim linking it to the charges.

The defense counsel said evidence of the three additional trips, if offered by the prosecution, would be highly prejudicial.

Banes said the U.S. government has failed to show that the three additional trips can be characterized as part of the same scheme.

He said evidence of the three additional trips does not tend to prove a modus operandi.

In the U.S. government's opposition to the motion, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley said the investigation in this case began when they learned about the mayor's trip to Guam that raised a red flag.

He said they then discovered four more trips.

O'Malley said in those five trips, mayor Atalig, who has a signatory authority in Travel Authorizations, evaded standard procedures.

O'Malley said the Finance Department had not approved those trips.

He said three of those five trips need Finance's approval.

At the hearing, the prosecution called to the stand Office of the Public Auditor investigator Travis Hurst, who testified about all of Mayor Atalig's nine trips.

O'Malley said the commonalities of those trips was the element of deception. "If it happens over and over and over again, it's a scheme," the prosecutor said.

The Ataligs are indicted on five corruption charges for arranging CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan under allegedly fraudulent pretenses. The defendants pleaded not guilty.

The Best Gaming Club in Saipan
WELCOME TO Fabulous SAIPAN VEGAS GOLF RESORT & SLOT CLUB
2nd BIRTHDAY
player promotions for MARCH
Five (5) Saturdays Midnight Draw of $2,000.
March 17 Anniversary Bash with Midday Draw of $5,000,
Door Prizes and BBQ Lunch.
With over $20,000 to be won.
Come Play today, you could be the next Big Winner!

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
NMC
1981
More JOB OPPORTUNITIES
A Higher INCOME
A Better LIFE
A college degree can help you obtain all these.
Registration for NMC's Spring 2019 semester is ongoing until March 23, 2019. Start your way toward your degree today!
First Day of Classes
April 1, 2019
Learn More!
Attend a FREE Info Session on
March 21, 2019
Time: 5:30pm | Location: NMC Library
FINANCIAL AID STILL AVAILABLE!
Math & English Placement Exam Dates
March 15, 18, 20, 22, 27, & 29
English and Math placement tests starts at 9:30am. Call 237-6774 to make an appointment.
For more information, log on to www.marianas.edu or contact the Office of Admissions & Records at 237-6768 / 6769 / 6771
www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa
www.twitter.com/GoProa
www.instagram.com/NMC.Proa
Franco Santos
- Saipan Laolao Bay Golf and Resort Local Market Developer
- NMC Business Major

VOTES

From Page 1

the first day of early voting last Saturday.

Yesterday, 96 voted at the center, which is located adjacent to the Carolinian Affairs Office, behind the basketball court.

Igitol said early voting opens at 8:30am and closes at 4pm every day until this Friday.

She said it's a small turnout because the election is for only one precinct.

"We never had a voting for one precinct," Igitol said.

Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Kayla Igitol assists two early voters yesterday at the Garapan Community Development Center. The seven-day early voting started last Saturday and will end this Friday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

When asked why early voting is at the Garapan Community Development Center, Igitol said they actually tried to reserve the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe but it is currently being used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and another agency.

She said the first two days of early voting was smooth and slow.

One of the four candidates, Marco Taisakan Peter of the GOP, said yesterday he is happy with his home visits with voters as a lot of people came out in the first two days of early voting.

Taisakan said a lot of people in the community do not really know what's happening with the special election.

"The home visit was key in bringing them up," he said.

Taisakan said win or lose, he is happy because he made people "from both sides come together."

The three other candidate are former representative Donald Cabrera Barcinas of the Democratic Party and independent candidates David Castro Sablan and Mariano DLG Fajardo.

As of last Jan. 28, there were 3,361 registered voters for Precinct 3. Precinct 3A covers San Jose/Oleai, while Precinct 3B covers Garapan area.

The special election will be on March 23.

The designated polling places for the special election are room 18 of the Oleai Elementary School for Precinct 3A voters and the cafeteria of the Garapan Elementary School for Precinct 3B voters.

The polling places at Oleai and Garapan Schools will open at 7am and close at 7pm.

CEC said voters must ensure that they bring with them a picture identification card as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot at the polls.

The special election is being held following the death of representative Francisco D. Dela Cruz last January.

DEATH

From Page 1

cal condition.

New Zealand's stricken residents have been reaching out to Muslims in their neighborhoods and around the country, with a fierce determination to show kindness to a community in pain.

The shootings suspect, Brenton Harrison Tarrant, appeared in court Saturday amid strict security, shackled and wearing all-white prison garb, and showed no emotion when the judge read him one murder charge.

The judge said "it was reasonable to assume" more such charges would follow. Tarrant, who posted an anti-immigrant manifesto online and apparently used a helmet-mounted camera to broadcast live video of the slaughter in the city of Christchurch, appeared to make a hand sign, similar to an OK sign, that is sometimes associated with white nationalists.

The massacre during Friday prayers prompted a heartfelt response from Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who pronounced it "one of New Zealand's darkest days" and said the shooter, an Australian native, had chosen to strike in New Zealand "because we represent diversity, kindness, compassion."

Her fellow countrymen seemed to want to prove her right by volunteering acts of kindness. Some offered rides to the grocery store or volunteered to walk with their Muslim neighbors if they felt unsafe.

CHINESE

From Page 1

tion (CNMI) LLC, a contractor of Imperial Pacific.

In the amended lawsuit filed last Friday, the seven workers are still suing Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC, but added Imperial Pacific and another contractor, MCC International Saipan Ltd Co, as defendants.

The seven—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yang—originally sued Gold Mantis for negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

In the amended lawsuit, the seven workers are suing the defendants for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The plaintiffs asked the court told the defendants liable to pay them damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from Imperial Pacific.

Imperial Pacific had denied the allegations before.

The company also previously stated that it "denounces in the strongest terms harboring of illegal workers by some of its contractors and subcontractors and will continue to work with authorities in the amicable resolution of issues."

The plaintiffs were allegedly among the Gold Mantis employees who staged numerous protests against the company in 2017 over unpaid wages.

Gold Mantis eventually reportedly reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Labor in which it agreed to pay millions of dollars to plaintiffs and their coworkers for wage and hour violations that occurred during their employment.

According to the complaint, Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Qingchun Xu, and Liangcai Sun began their employment with Gold Mantis working on the casino worksite in January or February 201,.

Plaintiffs Youli Wang and Duxin Yang began working for Gold Mantis in November and December 2016, respectively.

After learning of the plaintiffs' injuries during separate accidents at the casino project worksite, Gold Mantis allegedly refused to take them to the hospital's emergency room, call for emergency medical assistance, or arrange any other form of medical attention.

Berline said Gold Mantis never compensated the plaintiffs for their injuries, and never provided them with any pay for the time that they were unable to work.

Berline said the plaintiffs paid fees sometimes exceeding $8,000 to recruiters in China for their jobs on Saipan.

He said many of them had to borrow money from loan sharks at high interest rates, using their land or homes as collateral, in order for them to pay these fees.

Upon arriving on Saipan, managers at MCC and Gold Mantis then allegedly got more fees from plaintiffs before allowing them to work.

Berline said although plaintiffs had been promised that they could work on Saipan for several years or even obtain green cards, they later learned that they lacked legal authorization to work on Saipan.

Plaintiffs were allegedly required to work over 12 hours per day without any rest day, and sometimes were forced to work a 24-hour shift.

Berline said even though plaintiffs' pay rate was already below the legal minimum wage, their employers systematically withheld a portion of their earned wages and often failed to pay them anything for weeks at a time.

Plaintiffs were allegedly crammed into dormitories, some of which had no showers or air-conditioning.

The lawyer said the supervisors yelled and cursed at the plaintiffs, and forced them to pay fines if they did not work hard enough or arrived late.

Berline said the Imperial Pacific construction site was also extremely dangerous, that the injury incidence rate exceeded the national average as untrained and inexperienced workers were pushed to work around-the-clock, while basic safety precautions were ignored.

Berline said plaintiffs faced immense pressure to repay the large (and growing) debts incurred in China, and were told by their employers that, if they leave their job, nobody else would hire them.

Berline said one Gold Mantis supervisor, who had allegedly physically beaten another employee, threatened to kill the plaintiffs if they disobeyed him.

Berline said MCC and Gold Mantis managers also repeatedly told them that, since they were on Saipan illegally, it would be useless to complain to the authorities.

"Imperial Pacific knew about or, at a minimum, recklessly disregarded its contractors' exploitative and illegal practices," the lawyer said.

Imperial Pacific, Berline said, was repeatedly told about the use of unauthorized workers on its construction site. Yet, in a bid to rush to complete the project, Berline said, Imperial Pacific and its contractors did not remedy the situation and, instead, sought to conceal their illegal scheme from government authorities, medical providers, and any other party that might hold them accountable.

He said Imperial Pacific and its contractors denied entry to an investigator from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration who came to inspect safety conditions at the worksite.

The unauthorized Chinese workers were also allegedly told to hide when government inspectors did come to the worksite or dormitories.

In the meantime, Berline said, Imperial Pacific earned billions of dollars in revenue from its casino operation.

He said each plaintiff suffered a physical injury while working for Gold Mantis on the Imperial Pacific project, including a badly burnt leg, scalded hand, and partially severed finger.

He said workers' compensation insurance was never purchased for plaintiffs.

Several Gold Mantis and other construction workers have protested publicly in the streets of Saipan.

COLOMBO

From Page 1

reer here on Saipan and that's why it is with a heavy heart that I am saying goodbye. My reason for leaving is personal…I have two children and one has 'special needs' [and] the island does not have enough resources to accommodate his needs and that is the main reason," Colombo said.

He and his family are moving to Las Vegas "because we find it affordable and there are good schools that my children can go to."

That doesn't necessarily mean that Colombo is ready to let go of his toque. "I am looking at different options, maybe an opportunity to work in Hyatt over there or in another company or restaurant, but I plan to take a break for a while and get the family settled," he said.

Colombo's career with Hyatt started in 1990, where he earned his stripes by working in cities like Hong Kong, Shanghai, Osaka, Manila, and then Saipan.

"I chose to come to Saipan because I know this is a beautiful island. My children were still very young, so my wife and I decided to accept the offer to work [on] Saipan and embark on a new adventure."

When he first came to Saipan, the Japanese tourists were the top visitors of the CNMI. Since then, that has changed, with Korea and Chinese tourists dominating the visitor arrival numbers. The length of Colombo's stay in the CNMI has given him a unique perspective. "I have seen all the ups and downs of the community and economy but, at Hyatt, we always try to be on top of the situation," he said.

"I will miss the people and the beauty of this island. My colleagues, staff, and the chefs at Hyatt are family to me. Saipan will remain very unique and special to me because even if it is a small island, people are so welcoming and connection is instant… Saipan has taught me to be flexible and friendship with people is important," he added.

Hyatt Human Resources director Josephine Mesta said that Colombo keeps everyone's heads in place. "He is the one that keeps our team calm and his patience and friendliness never fails. If the community loves him, imagine how much more we love him and we are really going to miss him."

As for Colombo's replacement at Hyatt Saipan, Mesta said: "We have several candidates from Hyatt International that we are interviewing and our decision will be made sometime really soon."

Claudine Camacho, who is a Hyatt marketing communications assistant, said it will be "hard to let go of a great man"

"Chef Colombo is like a father figure to all of us. We adore him and respect him. He's a great person to work with we are sad to see him leave but we wish him the best and we look forward to seeing him succeed in his new life," she said.

Colombo was a mentor to many chefs at the Hyatt and one of them is executive sous chef Zen Tomokane. "Chef Colombo saw my potential. …I worked with him since he arrived and he picked me up from just being a line cook in the kitchen… he believed and allowed me to make mistakes and today I work alongside him," he said.

"He is a big part of my life as a chef. He did not only teach me what I know about culinary arts but his mentoring also extended to life lessons, to always push myself to be better," he added.

Colombo is also considered an intricate partner of the CNMI tourism industry, according to Marianas Visitors Authority executive director Chris Concepcion. "He played a key role at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, the lone international brand hotel in the CNMI."

"The MVA is saddened with the news that he is leaving …We wish him the best with his upcoming endeavors," he added.

Finance chief: Controlling costs protects govt operations

The cost-containment measures recommended by the Department of Finance would protect the daily operations of the CNMI government and prevent work-hour cuts, payroll delays, or furloughs, according to the Torres administration, which cited seven areas for its cost-containment measures due to a projected shortfall in revenues this fiscal year.

The shortfall is projected at 22 percent, according to acting Finance secretary David Atalig in an advisory to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Revenue collections is also projected to be less than projected expenses by 4.7 percent for the first quarter of fiscal year 2019.

"To ensure that we do not have any reduction in hours, delayed payroll or furloughs, it is important for the Executive Branch to make some cost-containment measures so we can continue to provide essential public services and avoid lay-offs, work reductions, etc.," said Atalig.

He said the department remains upbeat, that fiscal conditions will improve in the third and fourth quarter months.

However, "it is prudent and financially responsible to implement cost-containment measures to non-federal funded programs and agencies until our revenue collections meet our targeted goals," he had added.

Among the areas he recommended for austerity measures are personnel actions, overtime, travel, contracts and leases, purchase orders, utility, and fuel conservation.

All government agencies, branches, departments, offices, and relevant instrumentalities will freeze its hiring, re-hiring, reclassification, reassignments, within-grade increases, and the like; overtime will only be for those who are in law enforcement, fire protection, emergency management, and medical services.

Travel outside the CNMI would also not be allowed at the expense of the CNMI government unless approved in advance by the Office of the Governor.

No new contracts and leases will be entered or renewed unless approved by Torres.

Open purchase orders will be disapproved and POs that will exceed $2,500 will also not be allowed unless related to fixed costs and other essential supplies like telecommunications, medical, and public safety equipment.

The administration has also directed department heads to impose utility conservation and other cost-cutting measures by reducing electricity consumption, and water, sewer, and telecommunications services, with simple steps like making sure all lights are turned off and there are no leaks or are fixed, and unused telephone lines are disconnected.

Fuel-saving measures will also be implemented. All government vehicles must be used for official purposes only.

"Department and activity heads will take immediate actions to reduce the consumption of fuel. Vehicles must be used strictly for program purposes, and we encourage coordination within and between offices to reduce vehicular trips throughout the day."

"Any requests for authorization as required above, or requests for exceptions to these expenditure control measures, should be submitted to the Office of the Governor," he added.

Atalig also clarified that the cost-containment measures will not be permanent. Things would go back to normal once things improve in the coming months. "As secretary of Finance, I can make recommendations to lift any austerity or cost-containment measures should our collections and projected revenues are met."

When asked how much is the CNMI government's projected working budget for fiscal year 2020, Atalig said: "Any items regarding the projections for FY 2020 should be directed to [Office of Management and Budget] special assistant Vickie Villagomez. I believe the current outlook is at least a 10- to 15-percent reduction from current budget."

Proactive approach

Floor leader Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan) said in an earlier interview that the cost-containment measure—freeze hiring and wage increases—is one way that the administration can act after the revenue shortfall, especially in the first quarter of the current fiscal year. "It was unfortunate in the final months of 2018 because of [Super Typhoon] Yutu."

"Things are picking up in the second quarter but Yutu practically made a lot of businesses un-operational. One classic example is three hotels were destroyed. After Yutu, every day the hotels don't operate, we don't have the taxes that are supposed to go to the general fund of the government."

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the administration and the Legislature should work closely in coming up with a fair and balanced budget. "We have to analyze all shortfalls. We have to know what are the federal assistance that came in. We have to factor all of those and see if it does subsidize the revenue shortfall."

"The governor took a more proactive approach. This is not the time to be raise salaries or hire more people. We are hopeful, as a government, that we can recover in the third and fourth quarters. And business activity picks up so we could continue to collect taxes. A lot of conservative measures must be taken." ***(Jon Perez)***

Torres thanks Concepcion, Kaipat's service

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is thankful for the services of Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris A. Concepcion and board member Cinta M. Kaipat in helping promote the CNMI.

Torres said Concepcion has served the MVA exceptionally. "[Concepcion is] an excellent ambassador for the Marianas to the world, especially to our major visitor markets. He's been a consummate professional and exemplified the qualities needed to promote our islands and work with our tourism partners."

"His knowledge and connection with the airlines and the Japanese market were instrumental in the progress of MVA, the growth of tourism to its highest levels since 1997, and securing Skymark Airlines Inc. as a new partner for our islands."

He added that Concepcion's work extends beyond his duties at MVA. "He also served as a role model for every aspiring young professional in our community. I and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios valued his judgment always."

As for Kaipat, the former lawmaker's effort in championing the local culture and the environment got much praise

"Cinta's expertise as a cultural advocate of our islands left an indelible impact on the board and the direction of MVA," said Torres. "She believed that the best marketing tool of the Marianas is one that is centered on the people, the culture, and environment."

Torres said that both Concepcion and Kaipat will be missed by the MVA board but both would remain active in helping the community.

Concepcion made known his decision to leave the MVA in last Tuesday's board meeting, while Kaipat sent her letter of resignation to MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce the same day.

Concepcion, who joined the MVA in April 2016, will have until April 12 at his post. Torres appointed Kaipat to the MVA board last July. ***(Jon Perez)***

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Communication That Gets The Job Done

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 @ 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
CDA Board Room, 1st Floor, San Jose

Presented by: ***Polly DLG. Masga, Owner***
Access 670 Consulting

Communication is key when it comes to leading an organization of any size. The overall success of a company comes from effective communication in the workplace. Learn how you can lead a team and your entire organization to get work done (and succeed!) in a harmonious work environment.

Polly DLG. Masga has been a Human Resources (HR) professional for over 19 years. She started her HR career working for the Paris Las Vegas hotel in Las Vegas, NV as an interview specialist. She eventually moved back to Saipan and has worked in HR departments for different industries: education, visitor's industry, hotel and healthcare. She and her husband, Floyd, own and operate **ACCESS 670 Consulting**, a business aimed to assist with projects through data collection and reporting, consulting work, and training and development.

YOUR PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS
Supported by:
ACCESS 670 CONSULTING

Register at https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4332
For more information, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com.

Disclaimer: The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN) at the University of Guam – School of Business & Public Administration is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinian, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, and Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

PHI Pharmacy
Diabetes Shoppe
Good Neighbor Pharmacy
Open everyday of the year, providing prescription medication and healthcare essentials to the people of the CNMI for over 22 years.

Inventory Sale
March 11-31, 2019

35% OFF SUPPLEMENTS, VITAMINS & SPORTS NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS
25% OFF ALL OTC ITEMS
50% OFF ON SELECTED ITEMS

Hospital Supplies • Diabetes Products
Two Convenient Locations To Serve You

Navy Hill (CHC)
Tel. (670) 323-5000/01 • Fax (670) 323-5011
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat & Sun:8am-4pm

Dandan (Joeten Dandan Center)
Tel. (670) 235-6170/74 • Fax (670) 235-6180
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat: 8am-4pm

Visit us on www.facebook.com/phipharmacy
PHI Pharmacy...the pharmacy you can trust!

‘Cannabis commission needs a full-time board’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commissioners of the CNMI Cannabis Commission would need to focus on their new jobs if they are to be effective in regulating what is being promoted as an emerging marijuana industry in the Commonwealth.

At least that’s how commissioner Nadine Deleon Guerrero sees it. She pointed out that, like her fellow Saipan representative Matt Deleon Guerrero, they expect a lot of trial and error when it comes to the new industry.

“A lot of this unknown [is because] nobody has done it before. So, what are we comparing it against? Nothing,” she said.

This is another reason, Nadine Deleon Guerrero said, why the commission is pushing for the commissioners to be fully compensated.

“So that we can fully focus on studying the industry, to see what works and what doesn’t. We can’t do that if we work part-time,” she added.

She pointed out that the commission has not yet been organized. “We are not yet organized right now, so our 180-day clock hasn’t even started ticking.”

“So, once we get sworn in and we hold our first organizational meeting—gather like an officiating body where we get to elect our officers—it is only there when the 180-day [provision] would start ticking.”

Based on the law, the commission must prescribe forms and adopt rules for the program within 180 days of their organizational meeting. Also, adults cannot start growing cannabis even without registering since the Homegrown Marijuana Registry has yet to be created.

Nadine Deleon Guerrero clarified that “it is still illegal to cultivate and use [cannabis].

“Until we take our oath and get organized, that is only when the [120] and 180-day clock would start ticking,” she added.

House Bill 21-13, introduced by House vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) to would amend Public Law 20-66 or the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, suggests increasing the 180-day provision to 360—basically one year.

“So, instead of having it six months, it will give us a whole year to get ourselves organized to promulgate the regulations,” said Nadine Deleon Guerrero. “But, personally, I don’t think it would take us a year. I think we only need a little bit of cushion of over six months.”

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Representatives of the CNMI Civil Service Commission office—Cathy Tebit, acting chair; Bernie Palacios, commissioner; Teresa Borja, executive assistant; and Kadianne Mangerero, executive secretary—attended the Guam CSC meeting last March 7.

CNMI Civil Service Commission visits Guam

HAGÅTNA—Commissioners and staff of the CNMI Civil Service Commission paid a visit to Guam this month to meet with the staff and learn more about the operations of the Guam Civil Service Commission.

Representatives of the CNMI CSC office—Cathy Tebit, acting chair; Bernie Palacios, commissioner; Teresa Borja, executive assistant; and Kadianne Mangerero, executive secretary—attended the March 7 Guam CSC meeting to meet with the Guam commissioners and staff of the Guam CSC and learn about the territory’s laws and procedures.

Guam CSC executive director Daniel Leon Guerrero, and chair Luis Baza welcomed their CNMI counterparts and discussed how they can assist one another in the successful operation of their respective agencies. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014

SADOG TASI PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *“CUC-RFP-19-014, Sadog Tasi Primary Screen Project”* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 8, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma’ Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 • Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-01

SUBMISSION DATE: March 19, 2019
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of JOAQUINA NEKAIFES KANIKI, Deceased, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0225

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 7, 2019, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot no. 015 D 54, situated in Sugar King Estates, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 982 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no.015 D 00, the original of which was registered on September 11, 1975, as Documented no. 4841, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2019., at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Condition of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of February, 2019
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE., Auctioneer

Korean businessman's racketeering lawsuit is dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court dismissed with prejudice a racketeering lawsuit filed by a South Korean businessman after he failed to show up at yesterday's hearing.

That means businessman Il Hwan Kim and his former company, KSA Corp., can no longer re-file their lawsuit against the remaining defendant, Jeong Eun Taek.

Kim failed to appear at the show-cause hearing that ordered him and KSA to explain why the court should not dismiss their lawsuit for failure to prosecute.

Taek appeared with an interpreter.

According to the minutes of the hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona stated that Kim and KSA were notified of the hearing, yet they did not appear nor did they show diligence in pursuing the lawsuit.

Manglona asked Taek if he heard from Kim and KSA at least since the last hearing on Jan. 24, 2019.

Taek acknowledged that he had not heard from Kim.

Manglona said she would issue a written order dismissing the case.

Last January, Manglona granted a motion filed by attorney Mark Scoggins to withdraw as counsel for Kim and KSA after they allegedly failed to pay financial obligations to his law office in connection with their racketeering lawsuit.

In his motion, Scoggins said despite almost daily attempts for a period of several month to communicate with his clients—Kim and KSA Corp.—they have not responded.

Kim and KSA sued Taek and several others for allegedly conspiring to steal millions of dollars from him for his hotel and casino project on Saipan.

Among those they sued were a former lawmaker and a Department of Public Lands employee.

The plaintiffs asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

The court subsequently dismissed with prejudice the claims against the former lawmaker, the DPL employee, and two others.

UFO inducts new officers

The United Filipino Organization inducted a new set of officers for the year 2019-2020 last Sunday evening at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

The umbrella organization of Filipino clubs on Saipan inducted eight new officers, along with 15 new board members.

The organization's new officers are: president Gerry De Guzman, vice president Marcelo Masilungan, secretary Birhen Martinez, assistant secretary Fernando Enano, treasurer Ladyvir Canape, assistant treasurer Florenda Miranda, auditor Yolanda Villavicencio, and public relations officer Carlito Marquez.

The new board members are Marlon Regaton, chairman, Flor Miranda, secretary, and Geoffrey Melchor, Nelida Atalig, Bong Malasarte, Maria Annamae Adaza, Hermie Coronejo, Ladyvir Canape, Birhen Martinez, Raul Abordonado, Angelita Mamaril, Joselito Espino, Zaldy Quebral, Alex Nario, and Tyrone Garon.

Larry Manacop, the 2017-2018 board chair, and outgoing president Regaton welcomed the new officers.

Honorary Philippine consul in the CNMI Glicerio Arago inducted them.

Guest speaker Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said a few words, while Masilungan gave the closing remarks. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Chaplain John Tomada, at left, and a military honor guard, all from the Guam Army National Guard, prepare to bring the body of U.S. Army soldier SPC Mickey Hart to her family shortly after arrival in Guam Friday afternoon at the JAL Cargo facility in Tamuning.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

A Guam Army National Guard honor guard loads the body of U.S. Army soldier SPC Mickey Hart into a waiting hearse shortly after arrival in Guam Friday afternoon at the JAL Cargo facility in Tamuning.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Hart is laid to rest in Guam

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, and Lt. Col. Esther Aguigui, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, honored U.S. Army Specialist Mickey Hart as her body was received by her family when she arrived in Guam last Friday afternoon.

Hart, originally from Dededo, Guam, was a light wheel mechanic stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas. She died from injuries sustained in a car accident.

"We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of SPC Hart and thank her for her service to our island and our nation," said Aguigui.

"We grieve for the family and friends of SPC Hart," said Leon Guerrero. "I pray for your comfort and healing during this time of mourning."

A final viewing and was held yesterday, at Saint Anthony Church, in Tamuning. Immediately following the Mass, final funeral honors will be rendered to Hart, which will include a 21-gun salute in the early afternoon within the vicinity of the church. ***(PR)***

ARMATECH
RF Door Lock System Services & Maintenance
Tel: (670) 234-8895/97 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

TAX TiME
Tips for Saving Money on Your taxes:
You should always try to claim every credit and deduction that you qualify for. To help ensure you don't miss anything, please visit at. . .
EdVenturesTAXPRO
2nd Flr. Island Commercial Center
Middle Road Gualo Rai, Saipan
across; FHB, Docomo and PizzaHut
Tel: (670) 235-0506
Cell: (670) 789-0506 / 286-0506
Email: ed.taxpro@yahoo.com
Look for: Ed Genobaten & Jasmin Rivas
Business Hours:
8:00am – 6:00pm Monday-Friday
9:00am – 5:00pm Every Saturday

"A Tradition of Excellence!"
Dr. Dennis Williams, a renowned eye surgeon, continues the tradition of excellence at Marianas Eye Institute.
- Received a CNMI House Resolution, "for conducting the CNMI's first Corneal Transplant"
- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

Prior Experience:
- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"
235-9090
Walk-in's welcome
Beach Road Garapan.

ATTENTION
Government Employees & Retirees!
The Island Smiles Dental Plan now available via your allotment
- Low Cost: $5.00 (Individual Plan) $6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or $7.00 (Family Plan) per allotment. Least expensive dental plan in the CNMI
- Members receive at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
- Plan Provider: Paradise Dental Spa. State-of-the art, full service General and Cosmetic dental clinic. Newest dental clinic and most experienced dentist in the CNMI. Really nice people!

AWARD-WINNING DENTIST
KIND AND GENTLE
DR. NELSON KRUM
Paradise Dental Spa
Hawaii Dental Service, TakeCare & Staywell Insurances also accepted.
Medicaid patients welcome!
Call 234-4040
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, across Chong's
Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com

CHCC marks World Kidney Day with health fair

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. marked World Kidney Day last Thursday with a mini-health fair outside the hemodialysis center building, next to the parking lot.

"Our goal here it raise awareness," said Miles Guerrero, CHCC nurse manager for the dialysis unit. "We want to make sure that the community…knows about kidney disease."

According to Guerrero, a person can make lifestyle modifications to ultimately prevent or delay end-stage renal disease—the last stage of chronic kidney disease.

"The two main causes of kidney disease are diabetes and hypertension," she said. "The health fair sheds light on what people can do to either prevent the disease or slow it down if they have it already."

Guerrero noted that most patients only realize that they have problems with their kidneys when they are already near the end stage of chronic kidney disease.

"They tell us they didn't even know that their kidneys were failing," she added.

CHCC renal dietician Jessie Delos Reyes-Willsey said that soba and processed meat might be a reality of life on Saipan but they may be avoided completely by slowly reducing portions gradually or by altering the way it is prepared—"making small changes and trying to add fresh vegetables into meals everyday."

"Try not to use salt," she added.

If soba or processed meat are simply unavoidable, she recommends to at least use less of the soup mix that comes in soba packs or rinsing spam in water to remove the excess sodium.

"…Fifty percent of the adult population here has hypertension and hypertension is one of the leading causes of kidney disease. Reducing salt intake…and watching portion sizes are some of the things that we can do," she said.

For those with diabetes, Willsey recommends watching how much rice is consumed.

"It is Lent season and I know some people are giving up on rice… It's already a start, so develop it into habits everyday," she said.

GCA artists rule in Toyota 'Dream Car' contest

Five out of nine winners of the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest announced by Atkins Kroll Toyota Saipan last March 9, 2019, are from Grace Christian Academy.

GCA artists also won the Top 3 places in each of the three age categories.

One of the top 19 international art contests, Toyota Dream Car Contest invites all children around the globe to share their ideas about the future of mobility by drawing their dream car.

GCA art contest winners shared ideas about how future cars would look.

GCA first grader En Mei Huang, who won a gold award in the 7-and-under category, said that her dream car is very big and sturdy. It has a special camera that can take pictures outside if there is typhoon like Super Typhoon Yutu.

GCA fourth graders swept all the Top 3 winners in the ages 8-11 category, winning gold, silver, and bronze awards.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy's Toyota Dream Car Art Contest winners pose after the awarding of awards at the Atkins Kroll Toyota Saipan showroom in San Jose.

Ashley Han's gold-winning dream car can go underwater without the use of gasoline. "It can help in cleaning under the ocean," she said.

Justin Ma's silver award-winning dream car can also go underwater. "It has a light than can communicate with sea animals. It also contains a suit that people can use," he said.

Ashley Hans' twin brother, Alvin Hans, won a bronze medal with a dream car that can fly. Powered by electricity, he said, "It can help clean the air."

Akira Ota, who is a GCA 7th grader and won a gold medal in the 12-15 age category, said his dream car was inspired by Elon Musk, the lead designer of SpaceX. "I want to build a cheaper rocket, so why not make a car that can withstand the atmosphere like a rocket. A cheaper rocket."

The artwork of all GCA gold awardees will be submitted to the world contest that will be held in Japan. In the world contest, these entries selected from each country and region will be judged by a jury panel, where award winners will be selected for the gold, silver, and bronze awards, along with finalists.

One winner from the Guam and Saipan winners will be included in the 30 world contest winners who, together with his or her parents or guardians, will be selected travel to Japan for four days in August 2019. The winners can expect many wonderful surprises, including a special meeting with Toyota president Akio Toyoda.

GCA's K-5th grade art teacher Esther Manzano, the winner's parents, administration, teachers, and students of GCA are very happy for these artists' accomplishments. ***(PR)***

MCS AP class earns female diversity award

Mount Carmel School has earned the first College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls' access in AP Computer Science courses.

Out of more than 18,000 secondary schools worldwide that offer AP courses, MCS is one of only 685 to accomplish this.

"We're honored by this recognition and are proud of our female students studying computer science for their achievements," said school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "We're committed to continuing to provide our female students with access to AP Computer Science courses to help prepare a more diverse workforce in critical STEM jobs."

Filmah Buenaflor, the school's Computer Science course instructor, was honored by the recognition. "I am really happy with this honor given to our school in celebration of Women's History Month. It means our effort paid off and it serves as an inspiration to strive more." She acknowledged the school's leadership team for supporting new programs and new initiatives, as well as professor Jen Rosato of Mobile CSP in Minnesota and Connecticut, the only NSF-funded program "that opened their doors to us."

Schools receiving the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have either 50 percent or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population. Only 490 schools earned the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for AP Computer Science Principles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mount Carmel School's Computer Science Principles course instructor Filmah Buenaflor, left, mentors senior Reica Ramirez through a project for the course.

"By inviting many more young women to advanced computer science classrooms, Mount Carmel School has taken a significant step toward preparing all students for the widest range of 21st-century opportunities," said Trevor Packer, the College Board's senior vice president of the AP Program. "We hope this inspires many other high schools to engage more female students in AP Computer Science and prepare them to drive innovation."

The AP Computer Science Principles course launch in 2016 was the largest in Program history. AP Computer Science Principles has promoted the growth of AP computer science in high schools. AP computer science course participation increased 135 percent since 2016, broadening STEM career opportunities for more students. The number of female, rural, and underrepresented minority students taking AP computer science exams has more than doubled in that period.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses contributes to gender parity in the industry's high-paying jobs and drives innovation, creativity, and competition. According to UNESCO's Institute of Statistics data, less than 30 percent of the world's researchers are women; in North America and Western Europe, it's just 32 percent. Research shows women are more likely to pursue computer science if they're given the opportunity to explore it in high school. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

Amendment No. 1

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (CPD) FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019 AND SOLICITATION FOR COMMENTS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,361,000.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $870,145.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $421,257.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $69,598.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2019.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

- ***Program Year 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be utilized for the following projects: Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball Court; Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center; Rehabilitation of the Tanapag Youth Center; Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof.***
- ***Program Year 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG) funds will be used for repaid re-housing of homeless families in the CNMI.***
- ***Program Year 2019 HOME funds will continue to be used to assist families in new construction, rehabilitation, and purchase of a home.***
- ***Consolidated Plan: The NMHC is preparing its Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan and is soliciting comments and input on the priority needs, goals, and objectives for the next five (5) years.***

A briefing will be conducted to the public to discuss regarding the CPD program funds. The briefing will also enable the community to comment on the use of the program funds and to obtain information regarding the CPD program process.

The schedules and venues for the briefing are as follows:

Rota:	***~~Sinapalo Youth Center, Sinapalo: March 08, 2019: 3:00 p.m.~~ Moved to March 18, 2019: 3:00 p.m. at the Sinapalo Youth Center, Sinapalo***
Tinian:	***Mayor's Office Conference Room, San Jose: March 12, 2019: 3:00 p.m.***
Saipan:	***NMHC Central Office Conference Room, Garapan: March 15, 2019: 3:00 p.m.***

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the briefing so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD programs, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/

Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 53
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The mosque massacres

New Zealand, from an American perspective, may seem to be at the end of the Earth. But that perceived isolation doesn't equal protection. Evil can come from anywhere and descend on anyone. The internet can speed messages of hate.

On Friday, at least one gunman, possibly more, attacked two mosques in Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island, killing several dozen people and wounding dozens more. It was afternoon on the day of prayer for Muslims.

The carnage was purposeful, livestreamed on Facebook. This was a heinous act of violence designed to be seen and shared. A shooter, apparently using a helmet camera, led viewers on his rampage.

The design of the crime is all too recognizable.

It is Pittsburgh, where a gunman killed 11 people in a synagogue.

It is a South Texas church, where a murderer killed 26 people.

It is a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis., where the death toll was six.

It is terrorism carried out against a targeted group of victims at their most peaceful and thus vulnerable: people at prayer. One can speculate about a possible motive—in this case, white nationalist rage—but logic fails to justify such twisted acts.

New Zealand, like the United States, is a multicultural nation where Muslims are assimilated contributors to society. But like other groups, including Jewish people, Muslims are a highly visible minority, owing to their cultural identity and pattern of worship.

One aspect of this crime that gained immediate attention was the livestream. Early evidence suggested the internet also played a role in fomenting the gunman's hateful ideology. The dark corners of cyberspace are full of such lunacy.

All kinds of ideas, good and evil, go viral through social media. Societies can't outlaw hate. Government cannot regulate thought or ban words. In the United States, the First Amendment doesn't take sides. Short of explicit threats, free speech must be free, which limits the ability of lawmakers to prevent eruptions of hate like the one in New Zealand.

But that doesn't mean civilized societies are powerless. Gatekeepers such as Facebook and other social media purveyors do have a responsibility to patrol and regulate their own venues. And all of us have a responsibility to eradicate racial supremacy and other vile forms of bigotry.

Two messages come at us from faraway New Zealand. The first is the need to call out the hatred of the mass "them," no matter who "they" may be. The second is to teach tolerance and embrace the differences that make people of all backgrounds unique and equal.

If all of us listen, those messages have a chance of squelching these senseless acts.

(c)2019 *Chicago Tribune*

IT'S TERRIBLE THAT PARENTS BRIBED OFFICIALS TO GET THEIR KIDS INTO COLLEGE.
MY CHILDREN GOT INTO COLLEGE THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY...
WE MADE A LARGE CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY.
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS LASVEGASSUN 2019

Medicare can help you stay healthy

By GREG DILL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Greg Dill is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

You may have heard something lately about "preventive health care." What does that mean?

At its most basic, preventive health care means living a healthy lifestyle. Eat a balanced diet. Exercise regularly. Maintain a healthy weight. And stop smoking.

Like anyone else, people with Medicare can benefit from healthy living habits. But Medicare covers a wide variety of shots to help you stay healthy. It also covers numerous tests to help detect diseases early, when they're in their most treatable stages.

You pay nothing for most Medicare-covered preventive services if you get them from a doctor or other qualified healthcare provider who "accepts assignment," meaning they accept Medicare as payment in full for their services.

For example, you pay nothing out-of-pocket when you get a "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam. This one-time exam is offered during the first 12 months after you've enrolled in Medicare Part B.

This visit includes a review of your medical and social history related to your health, and education and counseling about preventive services, including certain screenings, flu and pneumococcal shots, and referrals for other care if needed.

If you've had Part B for longer than 12 months, you can get a yearly wellness exam. You pay nothing for this visit if you're doctor accepts assignment. And the Part B deductible doesn't apply.

The wellness exam is designed to help prevent disease and disability based on your current health and risk factors. Your provider will ask you to fill out a questionnaire, called a "Health Risk Assessment," as part of this visit. Answering these questions can help you and your provider develop a personalized prevention plan to help you stay healthy and get the most out of your visit, which can also include:

- A review of your medical and family history.
- Developing or updating a list of current providers and prescriptions.
- Height, weight, blood pressure, and other routine measurements.
- Detection of any cognitive impairment.
- Personalized health advice.
- A list of risk factors and treatment options for you.
- A screening schedule (like a checklist) for appropriate preventive services.
- However, you may have to pay coinsurance, and the Part B deductible may apply if:
- Your doctor or other health care provider performs additional tests or services during the same visit.
- These additional tests or services aren't covered as Medicare preventive benefits.

Medicare also covers shots for flu, pneumococcal disease (which can cause pneumonia), and Hepatitis B. Flu, pneumococcal infections, and Hepatitis B can be life-threatening for older people. Flu and pneumococcal shots are recommended for people over age 65.

People with Medicare also can get screened for cardiovascular disease and different kinds of cancer, including breast, prostate, cervical/vaginal, and colorectal cancer.

Take colorectal cancer, for example.

Medicare covers screening tests to help find precancerous growths or find cancer early, when treatment is most effective. Medicare covers the multi-target stool DNA test, screening fecal occult blood test, screening flexible sigmoidoscopy, screening colonoscopy, and screening barium enema.

You pay nothing for fecal occult blood tests, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and screening colonoscopy if your doctor accepts assignment. (Note: If a polyp or other tissue is removed during a colonoscopy, you may have to pay 20 percent of the Medicare-approved amount for the doctor's services and a co-payment if the procedure was done in a hospital outpatient setting.)

For people who have or are at risk for diabetes, Medicare covers screenings, certain supplies, and self-management training.

If you need help to stop smoking, Medicare pays for up to eight face-to-face counseling sessions per year with a doctor or other qualified provider.

Medicare also pays for tests for lung cancer, HIV, and bone mass (to see if you're at risk for broken bones.)

People with Medicare don't use preventive health services as much as they should. But getting screened can help you stay healthy and live longer – and save the government billions in healthcare costs.

It's a classic win-win.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Treat far-right terror as the threat it is

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY
Bloomberg News

Leonid Bershidsky is Bloomberg Opinion's Europe columnist. He was the founding editor of the Russian business daily Vedomosti *and founded the opinion website Slon.ru.*

The deadly attacks on two New Zealand mosques should draw attention to an obvious fact: Terrorists linked to the far right are no less murderous than the Islamist groups that get more headlines and attention from politicians.

Western governments shouldn't be fooled by the skewed headline count; watching white supremacists should be a priority—alongside preventing the radicalization of Muslim minorities. This is not just a moment to grieve the 49 dead in Christchurch. It's time to review the data and make a conscious policy shift.

Islamist terrorists killed hundreds of people in Western Europe and the U.S. between 2014 and 2016, the heyday of the Islamic State. That drew attention away from far-right terrorists, but they have kept on killing: 66 people in 113 attacks around the world between 2013 and 2017, according to the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace.

The Australian think-tank's count is, however, too low. It includes only expressly politically motivated killings accompanied by white supremacist manifestos or preceded by racist social media posts—like those perpetrated by Norwegian Anders Breivik, who shot 77 people in 2011, or Dylann Roof, who murdered nine black worshippers at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015. There are other murders that aren't always confessed so clearly. They are often mixed in with everyday thuggery and violent psychosis in police statistics.

The U.S. Anti-Defamation League attempts a broader count, stressing murderers' links with far-right organizations rather than their stated motives. According to the group, right-wing extremists were responsible for 70 percent of the 427 extremist-related killings that occurred in the U.S. in the past 10 years. In 2018, every one of the perpetrators of the 37 extremist-related murders in the U.S. had ties to at least one far-right movement, although one had recently switched to supporting Islamist extremism, the ADL says.

Importantly, the number of incidents of violence perpetrated by the far-right is on the rise. The Institute for Economics and Peace noted in its 2018 Global Terrorism Index report that the number of such killings increased from three in 2014 to 17 in 2017.

Meanwhile, Islamist-inspired terrorism appears to be on the wane, with the attempt to create a caliphate in the Middle East roundly defeated and the ideal of pure Islamic statehood losing its attractiveness to the assorted misfits among the West's Muslim minorities. According to Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center's Global Attack Index, fatalities linked to Islamic State declined by 51.5 percent in 2018.

The far right has never killed on the same scale as the Islamic State. But it has grown by feeding off white supremacists' fears of Muslim immigration and the public perception that terrorism is Islamist by nature. That process has been helped by the fact that Islamist-linked attacks receive disproportionate media coverage. A recent paper by Erin Kearns of the University of Alabama and her colleagues showed only 12.5 percent of the 136 terrorist acts that occurred in the U.S. between 2006 and 2015 were linked to such groups—but they received more than half of the news coverage. If the perpetrator is a Muslim, the number of stories about the attack increases by 357 percent, the academics calculated.

In a separate paper, Kearns showed that giving people more data about terrorism doesn't necessarily change their minds about its prevalence and nature. Policymakers, though, should be more willing to put their biases aside. While it would be foolish to ignore militant Islamist groups, governments must pay close attention to right-wing extremist organizations.

In Germany, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution already monitors all such groups (or 25,250 people at the last count in 2017, up from 9,600 in 2012). The authorities don't just make a special effort to track right-wing crime by motivation, they also try to assess how many of their members are capable of violence through monitoring and infiltrating radical groups.

Though the German record of fighting right-wing violence is far from spotless (and the growing membership of radical groups is evidence of that), the approach itself is correct. Western governments must make an effort to keep a close eye on the far right just as they do on potentially dangerous Muslim groups.

And they should adopt the approach to recording crime used by the Anti-Defamation League. This means assuming the specific motives of a violent crime are less important than the perpetrator's links to a white supremacist group. Such assumptions, after all, are already being made about Islamists.

The mechanisms of radicalization are similar regardless of religion and ethnicity. Anti-terror policies should be based on that fact and be equally tough on every kind of murderous radicalism. The Christchurch killings are a reminder that this is not yet the case.

Amata's statement on New Zealand tragedy

By AUMUA AMATA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Aumua Amata (R-A. Samoa) is the delegate of American Samoa in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Editor's Note: Amata released the following statement of support and condolences for New Zealand last Friday.

"The reports from New Zealand are heartbreaking. We are mourning with them today. In American Samoa, we think of the other Pacific islands as neighbors, we come together with them for major sporting events, and many of us have had reason to travel to New Zealand. I've met with many of our wonderful community of Samoan friends living there.

"New Zealand is a welcoming and beautiful place, and just days ago, I was speaking with their ambassador to the U.S. about all our countries share. I know that as this sad news reaches everyone in American Samoa that our people will be praying, and we send New Zealand our love."

College admission scandal once again exposes an ugly truth

By LINDA WIGGINS-CHAVIS
Tribune News Service

Linda Wiggins-Chavis is a biochemist, currently teaching middle school science in Tampa, Fla. She is also a theologian, author and social justice activist. This column was produced for the Progressive Media

The recent college admissions cheating scandal involving parents accused of committing bribery and fraud to get their children into elite schools raises two issues: the myth of meritocracy for the privileged and the continued denigration of affirmative action for the less-privileged.

While most of society will publicly denounce what these parents did, it is in some ways nothing new. People with power and privilege have always done whatever they can to maintain it, while claiming that they simply worked hard and pulled themselves up by their bootstraps. Then they tell everyone else to do the same, a message specifically targeted toward historically oppressed groups.

Meanwhile, affirmative action has been called everything from welfare to reverse discrimination. It is more accurately defined, to quote the National Conference of State Legislatures, as "admission policies that provide equal access to education for those groups that have been historically excluded or underrepresented, such as women and minorities."

As a black woman, I have experienced misapprehension and resentment about affirmative action firsthand. When I was in graduate school, a white male student and I were having a discussion on race. He told me he couldn't get a scholarship when he was an undergraduate because undeserving black students were taking all the scholarship money. He blamed this on affirmative action.

Having myself received one of these academic scholarships, I proceeded to inform him of the reasons this occurred: "I took College Prep classes in high school that gave me honors credits, so I graduated with a 4.075 GPA. What was yours? My class ranking was 32 out of 857 seniors in my graduating class. What was yours? I was named in Who's Who Among American High School Students. What about you? I was in the National Honor Society, the National Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, the National Beta Club, a service club, and I took Advanced and Advanced Placement classes. What about you?"

By the time I finished, he just stood silently. Then I said, "So please explain to me again how I supposedly took your scholarship away from you." He said nothing further.

My story is not an anomaly. All of my close friends and many colleagues did just as well or better than I did. The problem is that our stories are not told, and this continues to perpetuate the racist stereotype that when blacks succeed, it can only be due to an affirmative action program that gives unqualified blacks the privileges that rightfully belong to whites.

White privilege is real, and this recent cheating scandal attests to that fact. Other, more deserving students have been denied access to a higher education because the parents of less-qualified students have more money and allegedly chose to commit crimes so their children would be accepted to elite institutions.

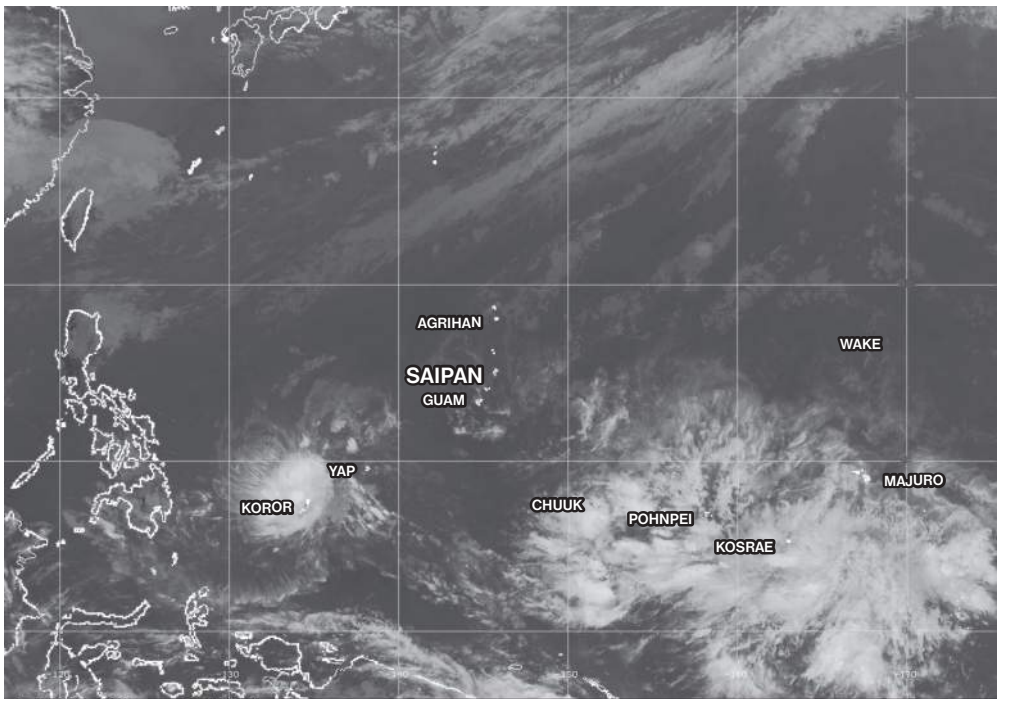
This is immoral and harmful—not only to those who are being overlooked, but also to the children, who have now been scandalized by their own privilege and victimized by their parents' illegal actions.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.
88° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:34 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Clouds and isolated showers are still passing through the Marianas and mainly east winds persist this morning. Tropical Depression 03W is located 745 miles west-southwest of Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 77°
Palau	Showers	84° / 77°
Yap	Showers	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Showers	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 63°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	75° / 46°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	78° / 68°
Honolulu	Windy	80° / 68°
London	Mostly Sunny	54° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	81° / 61°
Miami	Showers	78° / 69°
New York	Partly Cloudy	47° / 30°
Osaka	Showers	59° / 46°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	54° / 34°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	65° / 40°
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 53°
Seoul	Sunny	61° / 37°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	50° / 32°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
06:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
11:48 AM	LOW TIDE	1.08
4:53 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:21 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:50 AM	3:38 PM
Tuesday	-	4:44 AM	441 PM
Wednesday	-	5:36 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	-	6:25 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	-	7:12 AM	7:44 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Leadership dev't program caps third session in Yap

WASHINGTON—Twenty-six island government officials recently completed the third and penultimate session of the leadership development and training program—called Pacific Islands Executive Leadership Development Program—in Yap, Micronesia.

The 26 comprise the 2018-2019 cohort of the ELDP.

"We are proud to support the development of leadership skills and capacity in young professionals from the U.S. insular areas," said Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "We look forward to seeing them continue to develop and assume more responsibility in decision-making for the future of the islands."

The 26 participants hail from the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and from the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Students from the U.S. Virgin Islands participate in a separate Executive Leadership Program that takes place in various locations on the East Coast and in Washington, D.C.

The third week of the ELDP focused on leading institutions, with the participants being challenged to practice policy advocacy skills through the use of leadership concepts and principles taught during the first two ELDP sessions.

Participants interpreted and utilized fiscal and economic data to develop policy reform options to address issues relevant to island jurisdictions.

Other activities included updating individual leadership development plans, presenting team project updates, and participating in one-on-one meetings with ELDP program advisors to review each individual leader's progress to date and discuss continued professional growth.

The 2018-2019 cohort of the Pacific Islands Executive Leadership Development Program, or just ELDP, pose in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ELDP participants were welcomed to Yap by Gov. Henry Falan and they heard from additional guest speakers including T.H. Vincent Figir, speaker of the Yap State Legislature; Larry Raigetal, traditional navigator and director of Wa'agey; T.H. Cyprian Manmaw, Yap state chief justice; and Dr. Margie Falanruw, director of the Yap Institute of Natural Science.

Three program advisors supported the ELDP during the week: T.H. Sebastian Anefal, FSM ambassador to Fiji; Dr. Mary Okada, president of Guam Community College; and Anna Mendiola, president and CEO of the FSM Development Bank.

The ELDP was created in 2009 to address challenges attracting and retaining qualified individuals to work in core functions of island governments. The U.S. insular areas now count 103 alumni who have developed their leadership abilities through the ELDP. Graduates of the program now serve in their respective island governments as ambassadors, elected representatives, judges, cabinet members, directors, and dedicated public servants.

Yap State Chief Justice Cyprian Manmaw addresses the 2018-2019 cohort of the ELDP.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some members of the 2018-2019 cohort of the ELDP pose with Yap Gov. Henry Falan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2018-2019 cohort of the ELDP pose with instructors and traditional Yapese dancers in a traditional village.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The ELDP 2019 participants from each insular area are as follows:

■ American Samoa
- ❑ Katrina Hunkin-Seumanutafa, Travel Division head, Office of the Attorney General
- ❑ Peteru Lam Yuen, financial aid officer, American Samoa Community College
- ❑ Burg Salanoa, Community Services Block Grant Program manager, Department of Commerce
- ❑ Crystal Simanu, teacher, Department of Education

■ Guam
- ❑ John Camacho, Jr, accountant, Department of Administration
- ❑ Rodalyn Gerardo, special assistant, Office of Public Accountability

■ Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- ❑ Michelle Atalig, apecial advisor, Department of Public Lands
- ❑ Ryan Camacho, technical financial analyst, Department of Finance, Office of the Secretary
- ❑ Patty Coleman, program leader, Nutrition & Health Programs, Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, & Education Services
- ❑ TaAnn Kabua-Demapan, Drug Court manager, Judiciary

■ Federated States of Micronesia government
- ❑ Erick Paul, assistant secretary, National Treasury, Department of Finance
- ❑ Shaun Suliol, webmaster, College of Micronesia
- ❑ Sherlyn Reynold, budget analyst, Department of Education

■ Chuuk, FSM
- ❑ Roxalynn Kaminanga, accountant, Chuuk Department of Administrative Services
- ❑ Wisney Nakayama, representative, Chuuk State Legislature

■ Kosrae, FSM
- ❑ Julie Sigrah, administrator, Kosrae Visitor's Bureau

■ Pohnpei, FSM
- ❑ Mitaro Simina, vice principal, student services, Bailey Olter High School

■ Yap, FSM
- ❑ Vallynna Gippin, staff auditor, Office of the Public Auditor

■ Marshall Islands
- ❑ Maybeline Bing, secretary, Ministry of Finance
- ❑ Laurence Edwards, II, legal advisor, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
- ❑ Holden Nena, clinical director Of Human Services, Health and Human Services
- ❑ Isabella Silk, director, Office of Compact Implementation
- ❑ Francyne Wase-Jacklick, assistant secretary, Health & Human Services

■ Palau
- ❑ Antonnette Merur, director of Nursing, Ministry of Health
- ❑ Sunny Ngirmang, director, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs
- ❑ Tmong Udui, epidemiologist, Palau Ministry of Health

The ELDP remains competitive, with over 100 applications received and evaluated each program year. This 2018-2019 cohort of the Pacific Islands ELDP will participate in one final session and graduate in June 2019.

The ELDP is administered by the Graduate School USA with funding support through the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program. Additional information is available online at http://eldp.pitiviti.org. More information on funding assistance from the Office of Insular Affairs may be found at https://www.doi.gov/oia/fiscal-payments.***(PR)***

Jollibee to open in Guam on April 6

TAMUNING, Guam—Jollibee Foods Corp., the largest and fastest growing Asian restaurant company in the world, is soon opening its flagship brand Jollibee in Guam at Micronesia Mall on April 6, 2019.

Foodies in Guam can look forward to finally getting their hands on the brand's famous Chickenjoy. The hand-breaded fried chicken is described as "crispylicious on the outside," with a secret marinade that makes it "juicylicious on the inside."

Other favorites from the menu include Jolly Spaghetti, with its signature sweet- style sauce loaded with chunky meat and cheese; and Jollibee Burger Steak, with beefy patties served in a special mushroom sauce.

Jollibee, from its humble ice cream house beginnings in 1975, has grown into a culinary giant with over 1,300 stores worldwide. Its openings have drawn queues, with people lining up for up to 20 hours for a taste of their Jollibee favorites.

"We've seen people queue even in extreme weather to enjoy our unique and tasty food. We invite everyone—CHamorus, Micronesians, mainland Americans in Guam, and everyone here in Guam—to come taste and see for themselves why people are willing to wait and line up for our food," said Dennis Flores, Jollibee Foods Corp.'s president and head of International Business.

With Jollibee soon operating in Guam—where America's day begins—the company can proudly claim that it is serving delicious food to more diners on American soil at any given moment of the day or night. Jollibee has 37 stores in the U.S., with store branches in New York, Florida, Texas, California, Hawaii, and many other states.

Jollibee's expansion is part of its overarching goal to be among the top five restaurant brands globally.

"This is a special moment in Jollibee's history. We've long dreamed of the day we could serve the beautiful island of Guam, with its unique blend of Pacific, Asian, and American cultures and cuisine," said Flores. "The diversity of the people and food culture here makes it a perfect opportunity for us to spread joy to our customers."

Jollibee restaurants are known for attracting large crowds on their opening days, with thousands of enthusiasts arriving early and even camping overnight outside the store to be among the first to bite into a Chickenjoy. Guam is expected to elicit the same excitement on April 6 at the new location at Micronesia Mall.

Jollibee Foods Corp. is the largest and fastest growing Asian restaurant company in the world. It operates in 21 countries, with over 4,500 stores globally with branches in the Philippines, United States, Canada, China, United Kingdom, Italy, Vietnam, Brunei, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Panama, and now Malaysia.

It has eight wholly-owned brands (Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich, Red Ribbon, Mang Inasal, Yonghe King, Hong Zhuang Yuan and Smashburger), two franchised brands (Burger King in the Philippines and Dunkin' Donuts in certain territories in China), a 60-percent ownership in the SuperFoods Group that owns Highland Coffee and PHO24 brands.

JFC has investments in Titan Dining LP, the ultimate holding entity of Tim Ho Wan Pte. Ltd. (the master franchisee of Tim Ho Wan in the Asia-Pacific region excluding Hong Kong); and a business venture with award-winning chef Rick Bayless to build a Mexican fast-casual restaurant business in the United States.

JFC recently entered into a joint venture agreement to open Panda Express in the Philippines.

It has been named the Philippines' most admired company by the *Asian Wall Street Journal* for eight years in a row and was honored as one of "Asia's Fab 50 Companies" by *Forbes Asia Magazine.*

Jollibee is its flagship brand and is the dominant market leader in the Philippines, with a store network bigger than its next two competitors combined. It is the fastest growing QSR in Vietnam with over 100 stores, and the number one QSR in Brunei. It has also seen success catering to mainstream markets in Singapore and Hong Kong where around half of its customers are locals. The brand has embarked on an accelerated international expansion plan.

Jollibee has more than 230 international branches including in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Italy, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Malaysia, and the special territories of Hong Kong and Macau.

Jollibee's Chickenjoy has been named among the best tasting fried chicken by reputable publications such as the *South China Morning Post* and *Foodbeast*. It has also been named among the top international fast food chains by *Thrillist* and *The Daily Meal.* ***(PR)***

Juan L. Babauta, executive director of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, at left, standing second row, recently spoke at the U54 UOG/UHCC Partnership's annual Program Steering Committee Meeting at the University of Guam.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CCA, UOG CANCER RESEARCH CENTER

Betel nut intervention trial partnership

The World Health Organization has classified betel nut (areca nut) as a human carcinogen. There is sufficient evidence that areca nut causes cancer and adding tobacco to it increases your risk.

The U54 University of Guam (UOG)/University of Hawaii Cancer Center Partnership to Reduce Health Disparities, funded by the National Cancer Institute, is conducting the betel nut intervention trial to test the effectiveness of an areca nut cessation program adapted from a tobacco cessation model.

According to Dr. Yvette Paulino, one of the principal investigators of the BENIT, areca nut is chewed by 11 percent of the population in Guam and 24 percent of the population in the CNMI.

"With tobacco-related cancers leading the cancer cases in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands, areca nut chewers who add tobacco will benefit from a cessation program and the BENIT offers an intervention opportunity," said Paulino.

Juan L. Babauta, executive director of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, recently spoke at the U54 UOG/UHCC Partnership's annual Program Steering Committee Meeting at the UOG. Babauta provided a compelling presentation to scientists and researchers from the UOG, the UHCC, the Program Steering Committee, and the NCI on the realities and the burden of cancer, and its toll on patients, families and the community.

The U54 grant is currently supporting the BENIT study in Guam and on Saipan.

The CCA has been a significant and essential partner of the Saipan BENIT Team through its advocacy in promoting greater awareness and prevention of oral cancer as a result of areca nut use, as well as recruitment for the BENIT study.

The CCA and the Saipan BENIT Team encourages residents who chew areca nut with tobacco and want to quit, to participate in the BENIT study. Those interested must be at least 18 years of age and chew betel nut with tobacco at least three times a week. For more information contact CCA at 682-0050 or via e-mail at ccamarianas@gmail.com or log on to www.ccamarianas.org.

CCA is a community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the Commonwealth of the Norther Mariana Islands and the region.

CCA began as a coalition of volunteers who are committed to reducing the burden of cancer in the Northern Mariana Islands. These volunteers serve on the CCA board, and committees, help raise funds, and participate in training, outreach, and patient support programs.

CCA's programs and services are fully supported by the Marianas March Against Cancer and Public Law 18-64 earmarked as "cancer fund." The annual signature fundraising event of the CCA received financial contributions from corporations, families, and individuals. ***(PR)***

Free portable stoves on Tinian

As part of Super Typhoon Yutu Relief efforts, the Department of Public Works' Division of Energy will be distributing portable butane stoves on Tinian at the Tinian Youth Center.

This event is set for Friday, March 22, 2019, from 9am to 4pm and items will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies lasts.

This event is only available to residential consumers who must provide most recent utility billing and picture ID. Interested individuals must be present to avail of this promotion and for any reason an account holder is unable to make it, he/she must provide an authorization letter to whom they authorize to avail of this promotion. The authorized individual cannot be a person who is also receiving one for themselves. Residents who have a landlord name on a utility billing must provide a lease agreement.

For questions or information regarding this promotion, contact reporting specialist Maile Iakopo at (670) 664-4480/4.

Funding opportunity for this project was possible through a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy - State Energy Program. ***(PR)***

Business

As Brexit stalls, supporters protest betrayal of their dream

AP
A European Union flag blows in the wind, caught on the branches of a tree near Parliament in London, Friday, March 15, 2019.

SUNDERLAND, England (AP)—With Britain's departure from the European Union likely to be put on hold, some Brexit supporters fear their dream is dying.

But they aren't giving up without a fight — or at least, a long walk.

Hard-core Brexiteers led by former U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage set out Saturday on a two-week "Leave Means Leave" march between northeast England and London, accusing politicians of "betraying the will of the people."

They plan to finish at Parliament in London on March 29, the day the U.K. was supposed to leave. That deadline now looks unlikely. With British politicians deadlocked over departure terms, lawmakers voted Thursday to seek to delay Brexit until at least June 30.

"If you have seen what's happening in Parliament this week, we may well not be leaving the EU," said Brexit figurehead Farage, who joined the protest dressed for a country walk in tweed cap and Barbour jacket. "If politicians think they can walk all over us, we're going to march back and tell them they can't."

For the 100-200 Brexit believers who showed up to march on a wet, cold day, the gridlock in Parliament is confirmation that Britain's politicians have no intention on cutting the country's ties with the 28-nation EU.

"People now are just fed up with the whole situation and want to get out," said John Harrington, who traveled from Southend on England's south coast. "Now with it being prolonged, it could just go on forever."

Like many things connected to Britain's departure from the EU, the Brexit march didn't go completely to plan. Chaos reigned as protesters set off in a cold rain down a muddy North Sea coast path in Sunderland, a former shipbuilding city 270 miles (435 kilometers) north of London.

The starting point was changed at the last minute for what organizers said were security reasons. Even so, a small band of pro-EU protesters caught up with the Brexiteers, singing a ditty telling them where they could shove Brexit. The marchers responded with bad-tempered shouts of "traitors" and "losers."

"I don't think we're marching," Farage said as he was propelled along by a phalanx of security guards. "We're sort of shuffling."

Farage doesn't plan to walk the entire route. Those who do will not cover the whole distance on foot — some legs will be covered by vehicle.

The marchers plan to travel through pro-Brexit heartlands starting in Sunderland, which voted by 61 percent to 39 percent in June 2016 to leave the EU.

Many here stand by that decision, despite warnings that Brexit could damage rather than help the local economy.

Japanese automaker Nissan employs 6,700 people at its plant in the city, and supports thousands more jobs through its supply chain. In February, Nissan canceled plans to build a new SUV in Sunderland. That reversed a decision announced two years ago after Prime Minister Theresa May's government offered some 60 million pounds in incentives. Last week, Nissan's Infiniti division announced it would move production of two models from Sunderland, in another blow to jobs there.

The company says the decisions are not directly related to Brexit, but the auto industry has warned that a no-deal departure would destroy the complex international supply chains that carmakers rely on.

Jim Kerr, 60, does not believe the economic warnings. He said Sunderland has long been ignored by policymakers, whether in London or Brussels.

French protesters riot in Paris, accuse Macron of 'hot air'

PARIS (AP)—French yellow vest protesters set life-threatening fires, smashed up luxury stores in Paris and clashed with police Saturday in the 18th straight weekend of demonstrations against President Emmanuel Macron. Large plumes of smoke rose above the rioting on Paris' landmark Champs-Elysees avenue, and a mother and her child were just barely saved from a building blaze.

Cobblestones flew in the air and smoke from fires set by protesters mingled with clouds of tear gas sprayed by police, as tensions continued for hours along the Champs-Elysees. By dusk, as the demonstrators had dispersed, the famed avenue was a blackened expanse.

The resurgent violence comes at a watershed moment for a movement, which had been fizzling in recent weeks, and at the end of a two-month-long national debate called by Macron that protesters say failed to answer their demands for economic justice.

Police appeared to be caught off guard by the speed and severity of Saturday's unrest. French riot police tried to contain the demonstrators with repeated volleys of tear gas and water cannon, with limited success.

One arson fire targeted a bank near the Champs-Elysees on the ground floor of a seven-story residential building. A mother and her child had to be rescued just as the fire threatened to engulf their floor, Paris' fire service told The Associated Press. Eleven people in the building, including two firefighters, sustained light injuries.

A 43-year-old German factory worker who identified himself only as Peter had traveled to Paris to show solidarity with yellow vest protesters. Standing Saturday outside the burned-out bank, he said he agreed with the destruction, calling banks "the biggest problem in the world."

Protest organizers had hoped to make a splash Saturday, which marks the 4-month anniversary of the yellow vest movement, which started Nov. 17, and the end of the "Great Debate" that the French president organized to respond to protesters' concerns about sinking living standards, stagnant wages and high unemployment.

They claimed Macron failed in that aim.

"It was hot air. It was useless and it didn't achieve anything. We're here to show Macron that empty words are not enough," said yellow vest demonstrator Frank Leblanc, 62, from Nantes.

"We're marking the end of the great debate ... Macron has given us no great solutions," said protester Francine Sevigny from Lyon.

Others praised the violence that tore through Paris.

"I'm glad there are the thugs, because without them our movement wouldn't get any attention. We need the violence so we can be heard," said Marie, a mother of two from Seine-et-Marne who wouldn't give her surname.

The violence started minutes after the protesters gathered Saturday, when they threw smoke bombs and other objects at officers along the Champs-Elysees—the scene of repeated past rioting—and started pounding on the windows of a police van.

Simultaneous fires were also put out from two burning newspaper kiosks, which sent black smoke high into the sky. Several protesters posed for a photo in front of one charred kiosk.

Apple Watch may spot heart problem but more research needed

WASHINGTON (AP)—A huge study suggests the Apple Watch can detect a worrisome irregular heartbeat at least sometimes—but experts say more work is needed to tell if using wearable technology to screen for heart problems really helps.

More than 419,000 Apple Watch users signed up for the unusual study, making it the largest ever to explore screening seemingly healthy people for atrial fibrillation, a condition that if untreated eventually can trigger strokes.

Stanford University researchers reported Saturday that the watch didn't panic flocks of people, warning just half a percent of participants—about 2,100—that they might have a problem.

But even among those flagged, "it's not perfect," cautioned Dr. Richard Kovacs of the American College of Cardiology, who wasn't involved with the study.

People who received an alert were supposed to consult a study doctor via telemedicine and then wear an EKG patch measuring cardiac activity for the next week to determine the watch's accuracy. Some skipped the virtual check-up to consult their own doctors; overall, about 57 percent sought medical attention.

Among those who got EKG monitoring through the study, a third had atrial fibrillation, according to preliminary results being presented at an American College of Cardiology conference in New Orleans.

A-fib tends to come and go, and a week of monitoring might have missed some cases, said Stanford lead researcher Dr. Mintu Turakhia. But if the watch detected another irregular heartbeat while someone was wearing the EKG patch, 84 percent of the time it really was a-fib, he said.

"This study we believe provides very encouraging evidence that a device, the Apple Watch, can be used to detect a-fib and to point out to people when additional monitoring or testing may be needed," said Dr. Lloyd Minor, Stanford's dean of medicine.

Other cardiac experts said the study, which was funded by Apple, suggests screening with wearable technology might be technically feasible eventually, but needs lots more research.

"I would not advise this to the overall general population," said Dr. Valentin Fuster, director of Mount Sinai Heart in New York and a former American Heart Association president, who wasn't involved with the study. Instead, he'd like to see it tested in seniors with risk factors like high blood pressure.

WHAT IS ATRIAL FIBRILLATION?

A-fib occurs when the heart's top chambers, called the atria, get out of sync with the bottom chambers' pumping action. Sometimes patients feel a flutter or a racing heart but many times they're not aware of an episode.

Sometimes the heart gets back into rhythm on its own. Other patients get an electric shock to get back into rhythm, or are prescribed blood thinners to counter the stroke-causing blood clots that untreated a-fib can spur. A-fib causes 130,000 deaths and 750,000 hospitalizations a year in the U.S.

Nation

Once sanctuaries, houses of worship struggle with security

DETROIT (AP)—A rabbi who packs a gun. A church installing security cameras. A police car protecting a mosque.

Houses of worship have traditionally been places of refuge where strangers are welcome. But high-profile attacks in recent years on an African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina, a synagogue in Pittsburgh and now mosques in New Zealand have made many worshippers and their prayer leaders rethink how protected sanctuaries really are.

"People are fearful for their lives, for their houses of worship, for the sanctuary of this mosque and other places of worship like the synagogues and African-American churches that are being attacked. People are concerned," said Imam Mohannad Hakeem while attending Friday prayers at the Islamic Center of Detroit.

He spoke after a horrifying attack in New Zealand left 50 people dead at two mosques during midday prayers. A 28-year-old Australian is the main suspect and called himself in a manifesto a white nationalist out to avenge attacks in Europe by Muslims.

History shows sanctuaries are not immune from violence, as illustrated by bombings at African-American churches during the Civil Rights era. And in countries struggling with sectarian violence, attacks on houses of worship are much more frequent. But for countries at peace, the attacks are much rarer.

For many, houses of worship are sanctuaries where congregants bond with their shared sense of faith and community. The recent attacks have made some question whether houses of worship have turned into soft targets, losing some of their sense of sacredness.

In the parking lot of the Islamic Center of Detroit Friday, a watchful police officer sat in a squad car, keeping an eye out for any signs of potential trouble. Worshippers thanked the officer—offering him food, drinks, a handshake. Inside, Dearborn Police Chief Ronald Haddad greeted congregants with handshakes and hugs. Dearborn is a Detroit suburb with a large Arab and Muslim population.

Haddad said he doesn't know if houses of worship are more of a target today than in previous times, but the scale and scope of the attacks in New Zealand clearly attracted his attention.

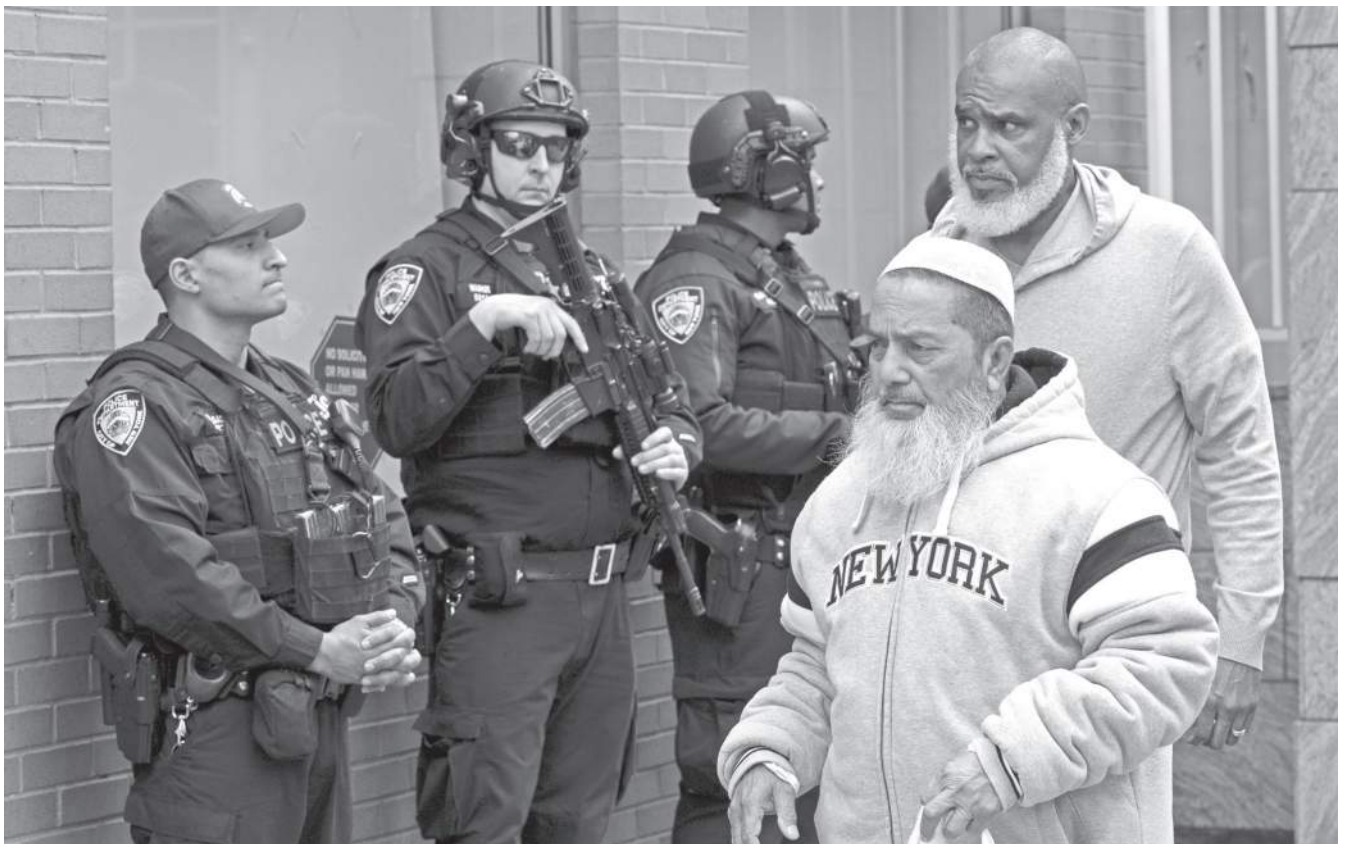
"Given what happened in New Zealand last night, we want to make sure that our community feels safe and secure," he said.

In Chicago, the Muslim Community Center and the Downtown Islamic Center increased security during Friday prayers. Several armed police officers stood guard outside and inside throughout the afternoon service.

Dana Al-Qadi, 29, an engineer, was committed to attending after the attacks but said doing so brings her a feeling of peace mixed with fear.

"People are their most vulnerable when they're at the masjid (mosque). It's where they bring their worries, their weaknesses, and try to speak to God. They're in such a vulnerable state of mind and spirit. In that moment, someone decided to be such a transgressor. That brings me so much sadness," she said.

For many in the Jewish community, last year's synagogue shooting attack in Pittsburgh sparked a similar sense of vulnerability.



AP

Men leave the Islamic Cultural Center of New York under increased police security following the shooting in New Zealand, Friday, March 15, 2019, in New York.

Rescues, evacuations as floodwaters breach levees in Midwest

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Authorities were using boats and large vehicles on Saturday to rescue and evacuate residents in parts of the Midwest where a recent deluge of rainwater and snowmelt was sent pouring over frozen ground, overwhelming creeks and rivers, and killing at least one person.

The scramble to move people out of harm's way was expected to subside going into the new week, as rivers and creeks in flooded eastern Nebraska and western Iowa were expected to crest Saturday and Sunday. That left officials downstream looking to prepare for likely flooding.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson had already met with emergency management team members Friday to review and update flood-response plans, and the Missouri Highway Patrol was preparing additional equipment and putting swift water rescue personnel on standby. The Missouri National Guard also temporarily relocated the 139th Airlift Wing's C-130s from Rosecrans Air National Guard Base in St. Joseph as a precaution.

The National Weather Service said the Missouri River at St. Joseph reached nearly 26 feet on Saturday, about a foot below what's considered major flooding at the northwest Missouri city. But it's expected to crest Wednesday or Thursday at 29.3 feet—more than two feet above major flooding level.

Evacuation efforts in eastern Nebraska and some spots in western Iowa on Saturday were hampered by reports of levee breaches and washouts of bridges and roads, including part of Nebraska Highway 92, leading in and out of southwest Omaha. Authorities confirmed that a bridge on that highway that crosses the Elkhorn River had been washed out Saturday. In Fremont, west of Omaha, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office issued a mandatory evacuation for some residents after floodwaters broke through a levee along the Platte River. And in Mills County, Iowa, authorities ordered people in some rural areas to evacuate after the Missouri River overtopped levees.

The flooding followed days of snow and rain—record-setting, in some places—that swept through the West and Midwest. The deluge pushed some waterways, including the Missouri River, to record levels in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota. The flooding was the worst in nearly a decade in places.

The family of farmer James Wilke, 50, of Columbus, Nebraska, said he was killed Thursday when a bridge collapsed as he was using his tractor to try to reach stranded motorists on Thursday. His body was found downstream, his cousin Paul Wilke told the Columbus Telegram. Gass Haney Funeral Home confirmed James Wilke's death.

At least two other people were missing in floodwaters in Nebraska. Officials said a Norfolk man was seen on top of his flooded car late Thursday before being swept away in the water and another man was swept away by waters when a dam collapsed on the Niobrara River.

Officials in Sarpy County, south of Omaha, said Saturday that power may be shut off to communities along the Missouri, Platte and Elkhorn rivers for safety reasons. They warned those who choose to ignore calls to evacuate that rescues would be attempted only during daylight hours. Some cities and towns, such as North Bend on the banks of the Platte River, were submerged. Others, such as Waterloo and Fremont, were surrounded by floodwaters, stranding residents in virtual islands with no access in or out.

ACROSS THE NATION

Balloons may have caused 'shooter' alert at U of Michigan

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—The University of Michigan says popping balloons may have sparked an "active shooter" alert at a building in the middle of campus. In a statement late Saturday, the university says authorities received up to 20 calls about shots being fired at Mason Hall. The reports came during a nearby vigil for those killed in the mosque shootings in New Zealand. Alerts issued by the school's Department of Public Safety and Security around 5 p.m. told students who were near Mason Hall to "run, hide, fight." About 40 minutes later, the university sent another alert saying there "does not appear to be an active threat to the community." Authorities confirmed there was "balloon popping activity" in the area where reports emerged about shots being fired. The school says there was no "malicious intent" behind the activity.

Catholic priest charged with drugging, raping woman

MIAMI (AP)—A Roman Catholic priest in Florida is facing charges that he drugged a female parishioner and raped her. The Rev. Jean Claude Jean-Philippe was in a Miami-Dade County jail late Saturday charged with sexual battery on an incapacitated victim. The Miami Herald reports that in October the 64-year-old priest invited the victim to his home at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Homestead. The woman said she drank tea he gave her and passed out. She told investigators she woke up two hours later naked in Jean-Philippe's bed, believing she was raped. She did not notify police until two weeks ago after telling another priest. The Miami Archdiocese says she was told to contact authorities. Officers say Jean-Philippe confessed when confronted. Jail records do not show if Jean-Philippe has an attorney.

Smart offers advice to Wisconsin town on teen's kidnapping

BARRON, Wis. (AP)—Kidnapping victim Elizabeth Smart says it's OK for residents of a northwestern Wisconsin town to "smile, but don't stare" if they bump into a 13-year-old local girl recovering from the killings of her parents and her own abduction. Smart spoke to about 1,300 people Friday night at Barron High School. Residents are trying to understand how they can support Jayme Closs, who authorities say escaped from captivity in January, nearly three months after her parents were fatally shot at the family's home outside Barron. Authorities have charged 21-year-old Jake Patterson with killing Jayme's parents and abducting her. The Star Tribune reports Smith said that if people want to talk to Jayme, they should "write her a letter, and she can choose to read it whenever she's ready." Smart was 14 when she was kidnapped from her Salt Lake City home in 2002.

World

PH water shortage forces cuts for 6.8M people

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—About 6.8 million people have been affected by a water shortage in and around the Philippine capital, with long lines forming for rationed water and businesses and some hospitals struggling to cope after faucets ran dry.

Water supplies will be cut for at least six hours a day for more than a million households until the rainy season fills dams and reservoirs in May or June, a spokesman for Manila Water Co. Inc., Jeric Sevilla, said Thursday.

The company, one of two government-authorized water suppliers in the densely populated Manila metropolis and nearby Rizal province, said a spike in demand and reduced water levels in a dam and smaller reservoirs in the sweltering summer are the culprit, exacerbated by El Nino weather conditions.

Manila Water, which supplies water to the eastern half of the capital, initially tried to cope with the limited supply by reducing pressure but it did not work since some communities in hilly areas complained of not getting water for long hours. The company then decided to schedule water supply interruptions starting Thursday, Sevilla said.

"The concept is for everybody to share the burden," Sevilla said by phone. "Nobody wants this to happen. The welfare of our customers is foremost in our mind and we're taking steps to mitigate the situation."

A company advisory said residents in more than a dozen cities and towns would lose their water supply from six to 21 hours a day through the summer months and appealed for public understanding.

In the city of Mandaluyong, residents lined up for hours with pails and water jugs to get water from firetrucks. "We have no water. It has been one week, not a drop in our faucet," said resident Richie Baloyo. "There are children going to school, people need to work, how do you expect them to collect water like this?"

Many water-dependent businesses, such as car washes and laundries, have closed temporarily. Some restaurants are using paper plates or porcelain plates covered with disposable plastic sheets to conserve water. Health Secretary Francisco Duque III made an urgent appeal to relatives of hospital patients to "limit the watchers of your patients to one" to reduce water use.

Congress is to hold inquiries next week into the cause of the crisis.

The government has been blamed for decades of delay in constructing another dam and other related infrastructure. Manila Water has been criticized for not adequately preparing for contingencies.

"El Nino is not really the culprit," Sevilla said. "It's actually supply and demand."

AP

A man sits beside rows of pails as he waits for water trucks return to their area after several days without water in Mandaluyong, metropolitan Manila, Philippines on Thursday, March 14, 2019.

NKorean official: Kim rethinking US talks, launch moratorium

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will soon decide whether to continue diplomatic talks and maintain his moratorium on missile launches and nuclear tests, a senior North Korean official said Friday, adding that the U.S. threw away a golden opportunity at the recent summit between their leaders.

Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, addressing a meeting of diplomats and foreign media, including The Associated Press, in Pyongyang said the North was deeply disappointed by the failure of the two sides to reach any agreements at the Hanoi summit between Kim and President Donald Trump.

She said Pyongyang now has no intention of compromising or continuing talks unless the United States takes measures that are commensurate to the changes it has taken—such as the 15-month moratorium on launches and tests—and changes its "political calculation."

Choe, who attended the Feb. 27-28 talks in Hanoi, said Kim was puzzled by what she called the "eccentric" negotiation position of the U.S. She suggested that while Trump was more willing to talk, an atmosphere of hostility and mistrust was created by the uncompromising demands of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton. She said statements by senior Trump advisers since the summit have further worsened the climate.

In Washington, Pompeo and Bolton disputed the allegation. "They are wrong about that. I was there," Pompeo said Friday. Bolton said in any case Trump "is our decision-maker."

Pompeo said the U.S. expects Kim to live up to his promise to Trump to maintain the moratorium on missile launches and nuclear tests.

"In Hanoi, on multiple occasions, he spoke directly to the president and made a commitment that he would not resume nuclear testing nor would he resume missile testing," Pompeo said. "So that's Chairman Kim's word. We have every expectation he will live up to that commitment."

Despite the tensions, Choe said personal relations between the two leaders are still good "and the chemistry is mysteriously wonderful."

She said it was entirely up to Kim whether to continue the launch and test moratorium, and said she expects he will "clarify his position" within a short period of time.

"On our way back to the homeland, our chairman of the state affairs commission said. 'For what reason do we have to make this train trip again?'" she said. "I want to make it clear that the gangster-like stand of the U.S. will eventually put the situation in danger. We have neither the intention to compromise with the U.S. in any form nor much less the desire or plan to conduct this kind of negotiation."

Choe questioned the claim by Trump at a news conference after the talks in Hanoi broke down that the North was seeking the lifting of all sanctions against it, and said it was seeking only the ones that are directed at its civilian economy. After the summit had ended, State Department officials clarified that was indeed the North's position, but said the lifting of economic sanctions was such a big demand that it would essentially subsidize the North's continued nuclear activity.

Choe said it was the U.S. that was being too demanding and inflexible and called the demand that denuclearization come before sanctions are eased "an absurd sophism." She added that while South Korean President Moon Jae-in has tried to help bring the U.S. and North Korea together to talk, the South is "a player, not an arbiter" because it is an ally of Washington.

She said even though the people, military and officials of the munitions industry have sent Kim thousands of petitions to never give up the nuclear program, he went to Hanoi to build trust and carry out mutually agreed commitments "one by try and step by step."

"What is clear is that the U.S. has thrown away a golden opportunity this time," she said. "I'm not sure why the U.S. came out with this different description. We never asked for the removal of sanctions in their entirety."

Alleged Christchurch gunman's actions stun hometown

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Those who watched Brenton Tarrant growing up in the sleepy Australian country town of Grafton say they had no inkling of the potential evil he allegedly unleashed in merciless gunfire at two New Zealand mosques that claimed at least 50 lives.

The chief suspect in New Zealand's worst mass shooting in modern history grew up in a modest house in suburban Grafton, a close-knit town of 20,000 on the Clarence River in northern New South Wales state.

Jennifer Huxley, an Australian Broadcasting Corp. reporter, went through Grafton High School six years ahead of Tarrant.

"I've caught up with some of his classmates and they remember him as a bit of a class clown," Huxley said Saturday. "But staff remember him as a bit of a disruptive student who was prone at times to being quite cruel to his classmates."

"But the teachers are struggling to come to terms with the fact that the pupil that they were involved with in Grafton has now been involved in what has happened in Christchurch," Huxley said.

After high school, Tarrant became a personal trainer at the Big River Squash and Fitness Center, where he had earlier trained and become obsessive about building up his strength.

"I am a goddam monster of willpower. I just need a goal or object to work toward," Tarrant posted on social media in 2011, a year after his father died.

Tracey Gray struggles to accept that the diligent fitness trainer she employed is the man accused of a horrific hate crime in Christchurch.

"I can't ... believe that somebody I've probably had daily dealings with and had shared conversations and interacted with would be capable of something this extreme," Gray told Nine Network television.

While working as a fitness center, Tarrant ran free athletic programs for children, The Sydney Morning Herald reported.

Gray said Tarrant had left Grafton by early 2012. He traveled the world, including what New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern described as sporadic visits there. Police say he spent little time in Australia during the past four years.

Tarrant wrote that he developed his racist views while traveling in Europe in 2017.

A woman who works at a Grafton news agency, who gave her name only as Brigid, told ABC that local residents were shocked by the events in Christchurch.

"It is very upsetting, actually," Brigid said. "I think pretty much everyone is in the same boat of being very upset about it. It's not something you would expect from someone from such a small community because everyone is well known."

World

Grieving families given earth from Ethiopian crash site

AP

Ethiopian relatives of crash victims mourn and grieve at the scene where the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max 8 crashed shortly after takeoff on Sunday killing all 157 on board, near Bishoftu, south-east of Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia Thursday, March 14, 2019.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Grieving family members of victims of the Ethiopian air disaster are being given sacks of earth to bury in place of the remains of their loved ones.

Officials have begun delivering bags of earth to family members of the 157 victims of the crash instead of the remains of their loved ones because the identification process is going to take such a long time.

Families are being given a 1-kilogram (2.2-pound) sack of scorched earth taken from the crash sites, members of two different families told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid any possible government reprisal. An Ethiopian government official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters also confirmed the deliveries of soil.

"The soil came as it became impossible to identify bodies and hand over remains to family members," one family member said. "We will not rest until we are given the real body or body parts of our loved ones."

Forensic DNA work has begun on identifying the remains but it may take six months to identify the victims, because the body parts are in small pieces. However, authorities say they will issue death certificates within two weeks. The victims of the crash came from 35 countries.

A mass memorial service for the dead is planned in Addis Ababa to take place Sunday, one week after the crash. Muslim families have already held prayers for the dead and are anxious to have something to bury as soon as possible.

Interpol and Blake Emergency Services, hired by Ethiopian Airlines, will work with Ethiopian police and health officials to identify the bodies, Dagmawit Moges, Ethiopia's Minister of Transport said on Saturday.

"Preparation for the identification process has already started and we will make sure that the post mortem investigation will start as soon as possible," she said.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board has sent about 16 members to assist the investigation, she said.

In Paris, investigators started studying the cockpit voice recorder of the crashed Ethiopian Airlines jet Saturday, grieving family members were given sacks of dirt to bury in place of the remains of their loved ones.

The French air accident investigation agency BEA tweeted Saturday that technical work on the recorder began. The BEA also said work resumed on the flight's data recorders.

The recorders, also known as black boxes, were sent to France because the BEA has extensive expertise in analyzing such devices. Experts from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the plane's manufacturer Boeing are among those involved in the investigation.

The Ethiopian disaster and a crash last year in Indonesia were both of the Boeing 737 Max 8 planes. The United States and many other countries have grounded the Max 8s as the U.S.-based company faces the challenge of proving the jets are safe to fly amid suspicions that faulty sensors and software contributed to the two crashes that killed 346 people in less than six months.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration said regulators had new data from satellite-based tracking that showed the movements of Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 were similar to those of Lion Air Flight 610, which crashed off Indonesia in October, killing 189 people.

Both planes flew with erratic altitude changes that could indicate the pilots struggled to control the aircraft. Shortly after their takeoffs, both crews tried to return to the airports but crashed.

Boeing said it supports the grounding of its planes as a precautionary step, while reiterating "full confidence" in their safety. Engineers are making changes to the system designed to prevent an aerodynamic stall if sensors detect that the jet's nose is pointed too high and its speed is too slow.

Cyclone Idai hits Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, killing 150

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi have been hit by a vicious cyclone that has killed nearly 150 people, left hundreds more missing and stranded tens of thousands who are cut off from roads and telephones in mainly poor, rural areas.

Cyclone Idai has affected more than 1.5 million people in the three southern African countries, according to the U.N. and government officials.

Hardest hit is Mozambique's central port city of Beira where the airport is closed, electricity is out and many homes have been destroyed. The storm hit Beira late Thursday and moved westward into Zimbabwe and Malawi, affecting thousands more, particularly in eastern areas bordering Mozambique.

Homes, schools, businesses, hospitals and police stations have been destroyed by the cyclone. Thousands were marooned by the heavy flooding and, only caring for their lives, abandoned their possessions to seek safety on higher ground.

U.N. agencies and the Red Cross are helping with rescue efforts that include delivering food supplies and medicines by helicopter in the impoverished southern African countries.

Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi said the damage is "very worrisome" and said that the flooding made it difficult for aircraft to land and carry out rescue operations, according to Mozambique's state radio.

In Zimbabwe, 31 people have died from the floods so far, according to the government. The deaths are mainly in Zimbabwe's Chimanimani, a mountainous area along the eastern border with Mozambique that is popular with tourists. No tourist deaths were recorded, said government spokesman Nick Mangwana.

Roads and bridges were swept away, slowing rescue efforts by the military, government agencies and non-governmental organizations, he said.

The dead included two school students who were among dozens of children trapped in a dormitory after rocks fell from a nearby mountain, said Mangwana. Zimbabwe's military is trying to rescue the 197 students at the school, although unsafe conditions are forcing the soldiers to use ground efforts rather than attempt an air rescue, the government's ministry of information said later.

Zimbabwe state television station, ZBC, reported that 150 people are missing.

"We are receiving tragic reports of some people being swept away. We urge patience as rescue is on its way," Zimbabwe's information ministry said in a tweet, although power cuts and communications breakdown in affected areas means the warning might reach just a few.

In Malawi, people "are now facing a second threat of flash floods" following the cyclone, said the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on Twitter.

South Africa's military has sent in aircraft and 10 medical personnel to help in Mozambique and Malawi, it said in a statement Saturday.

WORLD BRIEFS

Italy probes possible poisoning of anti-Berlusconi witness

ROME (AP)—Italy prosecutors have opened an investigation into the possible poisoning death of a Moroccan model who was a key witness in the trial against ex-Premier Silvio Berlusconi over his infamous "bunga bunga" parties. Imane Fadil, 34, died March 1 at a Milan-area hospital, where she had been treated since Jan. 29 for exhibiting "symptoms of poisoning," Milan prosecutor Francesco Greco said, according to the Italian news agency ANSA. In 2012, Fadil had told reporters that she feared for her safety after telling prosecutors investigating possible witness tampering in the case that she was offered money in exchange for her silence about what went on at Berlusconi's parties. Berlusconi was initially convicted of charges that he paid for sex with an underage woman at the sex-fueled "bunga bunga" parties, and used his influence to cover it up. He was ultimately acquitted by Italy's highest court in 2015. Asked Saturday to comment, Berlusconi said he was always sorry when a young person dies.

Iraq begins exhuming mass grave in Sinjar region

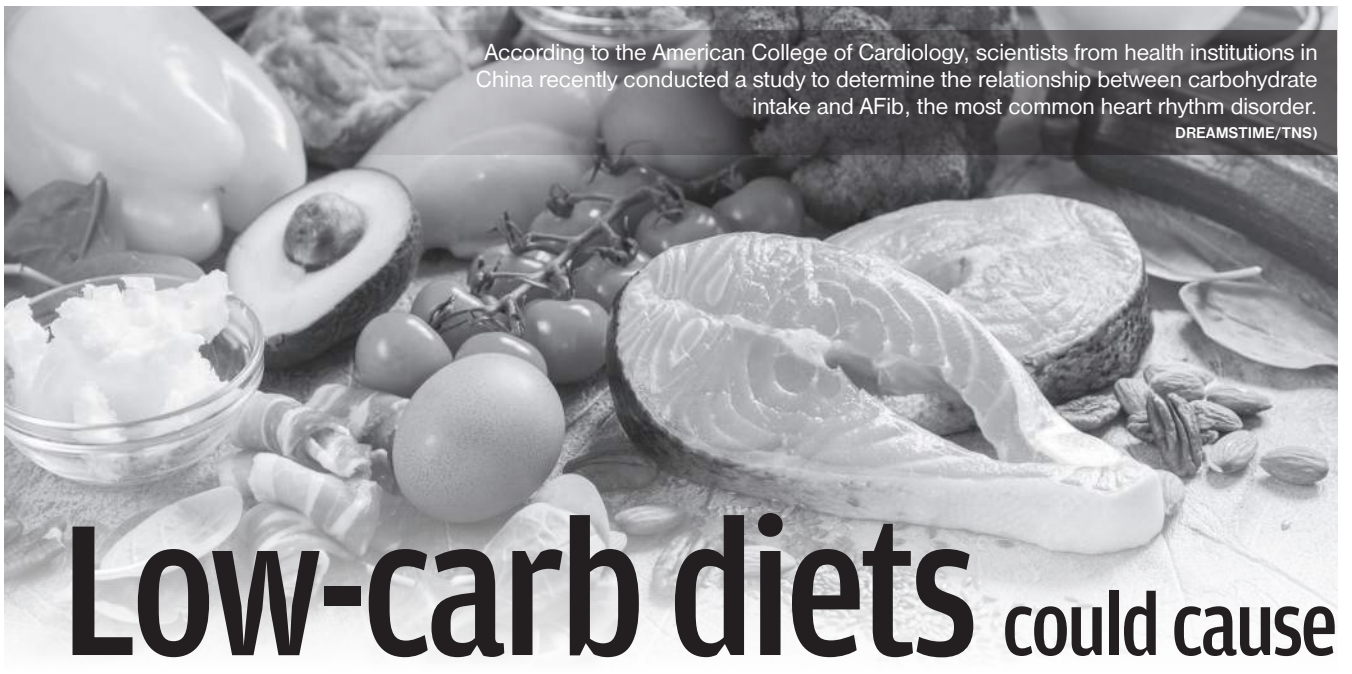
BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iraqi government has started exhuming a mass grave left behind by the Islamic State group in the northwestern Sinjar region. The exhumation, which is being carried out with U.N. support, began Saturday in the village of Kocho. IS militants rampaged across Sinjar in 2014, killing Yazidi men and abducting thousands of women and children. Many followers of the minority faith are still missing, after women were forced into sexual slavery and boys were indoctrinated in jihadi ideology. Over 70 mass graves have been discovered in Sinjar since it was liberated from IS in November 2015. Nadia Murad, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who is originally from Kocho, is taking part in the exhumation.

Lawyer: US Navy veteran held in Iran sentenced to 10 years

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A U.S. Navy veteran from California has been sentenced to 10 years in prison in Iran, his lawyer said Saturday, becoming the first American known to be imprisoned there since President Donald Trump took office. Though the case against Michael R. White remains unclear, it comes as Trump has taken a hardline approach to Iran by pulling the U.S. out of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. Iran, which in the past has used its detention of Westerners and dual nationals as leverage in negotiations, has yet to report on White's sentence in state-controlled media. Its mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "Obviously the concern is that the Iranians are using this as a tool against the United States, given the other individuals who are in custody," Washington-based lawyer Mark Zaid told The Associated Press.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation



According to the American College of Cardiology, scientists from health institutions in China recently conducted a study to determine the relationship between carbohydrate intake and AFib, the most common heart rhythm disorder.
DREAMSTIME/TNS)

Low-carb diets could cause common heart disorder, study says

By NAJJA PARKER
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Many doctors have warned against low-carbohydrate diets, and now they believe they could cause a common heart disorder.

According to the American College of Cardiology, scientists from health institutions in China recently conducted a study to determine the relationship between carbohydrate intake and AFib, the most common heart rhythm disorder.

To do so, they examined the health records of nearly 14,000 people for more than two decades. The participants were asked to complete a questionnaire, where they reported their daily intake of 66 different food items. They then estimated the subjects' daily carbohydrate intake and the proportion of daily calories that came from carbohydrates.

"Researchers then divided participants into three groups representing low, moderate and high carbohydrate intake, reflecting diets in which carbohydrates comprised less than 44.8 percent of daily calories, 44.8 to 52.4 percent of calories, and more than 52.4 percent of calories, respectively," the team explained in a statement.

After analyzing the results, they found people in the low-carb group were more likely to develop AFib. In fact, they were 18 percent more likely to have the condition compared to the moderate-carb group and 16 percent more likely to have it compared to the high-carb group.

"The long-term effect of carbohydrate restriction is still controversial, especially with regard to its influence on cardiovascular disease," co-author Xiaodong Zhuang said in a statement. "Considering the potential influence on arrhythmia, our study suggests this popular weight control method should be recommended cautiously."

The analysts also said low-carb diets were associated with increased risk of AFib regardless of the type of protein or fat eaten.

While the team didn't determine why restricting carbohydrates might lead to AFib, they believe people on such diets consume fewer vegetables, fruits and grains, which are foods know to reduce inflammation.

"Without these foods people may experience more inflammation, which has been linked with AFib," they wrote.

They also explained that eating more protein and fat to replace carbohydrate-rich foods can cause oxidative stress, which has also been associated with AFib.

Despite their findings, the team noted they cannot prove cause and effect. They said more investigations are need to confirm their results.

Remember, light exercise is good for you too

By KAREN D'SOUZA
THE MERCURY NEWS

Coach potatoes take heart. If getting healthy is one of your resolutions but making daily jaunts to the gym seems daunting, researchers have good news for you.

It turns out that even light activity, think about walking the dog or vacuuming the carpet, may be better for you than we used to think. Two recent mortality studies, performed by researchers at Harvard University and the renowned Karolinska Institute in Stockholm as the Chicago Tribune reported, found that the most active subjects had a 50 to 70 percent decline in mortality compared with the least active, most sedentary participants.

"We were somewhat surprised by the strong association between light activity and mortality," said Ing-Mari Dohrn, first author of the Swedish paper as the Tribune noted. "It was a strong factor for reductions in cancer and cardiovascular deaths, as well as for all-cause mortality."

Diet and exercise studies have long bedeviled by issues of self-reporting, such as inaccuracy. Who can resist fudging a little about how much fudge they ate?

However, as the Washington Post points out, the situation has improved for exercise epidemiologists, because of the advent of lightweight, wearable accelerometers (hello Fitbit). These gadgets allow scientists to collect activity data—such as how much they sit, how much they move—on large numbers of people in a more objective manner.

The Harvard researchers mailed accelerometers to more than 16,000 U.S. women, who wore them for 15 hours a day on four or more days. The scientists then followed the women for an average of 2.3 years to determine their mortality data. The Swedish team, meanwhile, gave similar devices to 851 subjects, including almost 400 men, who wore them for 14 or more hours on four or more days. Those subjects were tracked for 14.2 years.

"What's new and important is the strength of the association we discovered with the more precise measurements," said I-Min Lee, an exercise epidemiologist on the Harvard team in the Post. "Our most active women had a 60 to 70 percent decline in mortality, which compares favorably to the 50 percent difference you would see between non-smokers and smokers. This is why the public should pay more attention to being physically active."

Though working with different populations in different countries, both studies reported remarkably similar measurements for time sitting, time in light activity (time to fold the laundry), and time in moderate-to-vigorous activity (a game of hoops). Apparently Americans and Swedes both spend an average of about 500 minutes a day sitting, 350 minutes in light activity and 30 minutes in moderate to vigorous activity, as the Post reported.

In addition, the Swedish team also found that individuals who sit fewer than six hours a day have a 66 percent lower mortality risk than those who sit more than 10 hours a day.

So get up from your computer and go find Fido for a whirl around the neighborhood. Dare you. Or clean the house. Or play tag with your kid on the lawn. No matter how you move it may make a big difference in how long you live.

Mind those extra pounds?

By RENE LYNCH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Let's say you're trying to avoid sugar. And you're at work one morning, when someone puts out that irresistible pink box of doughnuts. (Or a bowl of chips, or whatever your weakness may be.)

It's a common scenario—and likely pitfall—for anyone who is trying to eat healthier.

Here's an uncommon solution from Instagram star Tiffany Cruikshank, author of the new book "Meditate Your Weight: A 21-Day Retreat to Optimize Your Metabolism and Feel Great."

"Before reaching out for the doughnut, ask yourself: 'What do I really want? What am I really craving?'" Maybe the answer is: "Oh, I'm craving sugar. Am I missing some sweetness in my life?"

Taking that split second to think, to meditate, to possibly reconsider, might be the key to keeping your diet on track, she said.

"A lot of people are doing the right thing. They're eating less, and they're exercising, and they're just not losing the weight the way they want to," Cruikshank said in an interview. "Meditation is the missing link."

Her new book urges people to take a 21-day challenge to meditate each day—even if it's for as little as three minutes—to create more awareness about the internal forces that can drive us.

Daily meditations are followed by a "mind makeover" moment intended to raise awareness by jotting in a journal, and a daily mantra meant to be repeated a handful of times throughout the day, providing a touchstone moment to step back from the world at large, turn inward and just breathe.

Too often, Cruikshank said, people turn to food to numb their stressful, anxious feelings.

Going inside with meditation will help people take the first step—observing the feelings—and then identifying the negative patterns of eating.

"This challenge is about looking at what is behind the decisions you're making over and over again."

Awareness may be all that's needed to break these unwanted habits, she said.

The founder of Yoga Medicine—a consortium of yoga educators who specialize in anatomy and physiology—said her meditation challenge also aims to address the body image issues that are prevalent in a world where social media platforms bring out the inner critic. (This is an area she knows plenty about: Between her personal and professional accounts, she has more than 165,000 followers.)

"There's this feeling that we can never match up to [what we see on social media], and that sets us up for a difficult road to self-love. The point is to recognize that tendency: 'This is what I'm doing. That is me, tearing myself down.'"

By the way, Cruikshank says she's totally OK with the occasion doughnut.

The problem, she says, is that too often we eat the doughnut—and are then miserable about it.

"To have dessert from time to time is a healthy thing. But that [pink] box may symbolize a lack of something else in your life."

"It also represents an opportunity," she says. "A chance to find out: 'What is my body really asking for?'"

Life & Style

Recovered de Kooning painting back in the spotlight

PHOENIX (AP) — More than 30 years after it was brazenly stolen from an Arizona museum, a painting by Willem de Kooning reportedly worth $100 million is going on display back where it all began.

The University of Arizona Museum of Art in Tucson is throwing a fundraiser and homecoming party of sorts for "Woman-Ochre" on Sunday before it gets whisked away for months of restoration work. For some who worked at the museum when the painting was stolen in 1985, the celebration still seems surreal.

Lee Karpiscak, who was the curator of collections at the time, recalls the entire staff feeling devastated. "We tried to be realistic about it," she said. "All these scenarios go through your head and make you crazy. We certainly hoped it would be returned."

It was the morning after Thanksgiving when authorities said a man and a woman showed up at the museum. A security guard and students working the front desk were the only ones there, according to Karpiscak. Police said the woman distracted the guard with small-talk while the man cut the painting right out of the frame, leaving edges of the canvas still attached. The entire heist lasted around 15 minutes.

"How do you eat your Thanksgiving dinner knowing you're going to steal a painting the next day?" Karpiscak said.

There was no security camera system set up then. The next few days were a flurry of activity as FBI agents interviewed the entire staff. But no significant leads developed. Occasionally the museum would get calls from people claiming to know where the painting was.

But Karpiscak said they were callers looking to get back at someone they didn't like. On the theft's 30th anniversary, the museum displayed the empty frame at a news conference in hopes of generating tips.

This August 2017 photo shows "Woman-Ochre," a painting by Willem de Kooning, being readied for examination by University of Arizona Museum of Art staff Nathan Saxton, left, and Kristen Schmidt in Tucson, Ariz. AP

Then in 2017, a furniture and antiques dealer in Silver City, New Mexico, bought the painting at an estate sale. When researching the piece, he discovered an article about the theft. He notified the museum. A conservator with the university found it to be a perfect match.

The furniture dealer had gotten the painting from the estate of Jerry and Rita Alter. The art work had been hanging in their Cliff, New Mexico, home. Relatives also discovered a photo of the couple taken Thanksgiving Day 1985 in Tucson. Jerry Alter died in 2012 and his wife in 2017. Authorities have never publicly called them suspects.

Jill McCabe, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Phoenix, said an investigation remains ongoing so the agency could not comment.

Because of the investigation, it was not until last November that the FBI fully released the painting back to the museum, curator Olivia Miller said.

"We had it here but we weren't allowed to move it or display it or do anything like that," Miller said.

She said museum staffers have been overwhelmed "in a good way" with the anticipation of the painting being on view again — even if just for a day. And of course, there will be plenty of safeguards around the painting.

"Our security is much different than it was 1985," Miller said. "Certainly at this event, we will definitely have extra eyes."

The oil painting, which was donated to the museum in 1958, is one in an iconic series by the Dutch-American artist that explores the figure of a woman. The piece features the abstract expressionist's signature broad paint strokes, depicting various colors across the female body.

De Kooning died in East Hampton, New York, in 1997 at the age of 92. He was part of the influential New York School of artists that also included Robert Motherwell, Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko.

After Sunday, the painting will go to the Getty Center in Los Angeles where experts in art conservation and scientific analysis can work on fully restoring it. One of the main issues is if it's possible to reattach the canvas to the fragments left behind when the perpetrator sliced the painting with a blade, Miller said.

"Because the cut is so clean, from my understanding, it makes it more difficult to reattach it," she said.

Miller said once everything is completed, Getty plans to exhibit the painting next year. The plan is for the canvas, which is reportedly valued at more than $100 million, to return to Arizona in the fall of 2020.

"I think the emotions will really hit when it comes back from the Getty and it's hanging here for a long time," Miller said.

She wishes the museum director at the time of the theft, Peter Bermingham, were still alive to witness its return. Bermingham died in 2000.

"In the initial interviews... he said he was hopeful," Miller said. "He thought we would eventually recover it and he was absolutely right."

No body double: Trump blasts #FakeMelania theories

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump is not amused by the #FakeMelania conspiracy theories circulating on social media.

He spun off a new theory on Wednesday to debunk the idea that there's a body double of his wife who steps in for her at times. The "fake news" did it, he claimed without evidence.

Trump alleged on Wednesday in a tweet that photos of his wife had been altered to make them appear as though a look-alike accompanied him to Alabama last week to survey tornado damage. His favorite morning TV program, "Fox & Friends," reported on the body-double theory Wednesday as the show's hosts weighed in on a discussion that aired Monday on ABC's "The View." Hosts of the ABC program debated whether an impostor had traveled with Trump.

"The Fake News photoshopped pictures of Melania, then propelled conspiracy theories that it's actually not her by my side in Alabama and other places," the president tweeted. "They are only getting more deranged with time!"

Hosts of "The View" had commented on how the woman at Trump's side in photos of the trip appeared shorter than usual and had a different facial structure than the first lady's. One host allowed that the first lady might have been wearing flat shoes.

In fact, the 5-foot-11 first lady had ditched her customary stilettos for sneakers to walk around the rough terrain with the 6-foot-3 Trump.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on who specifically Trump thought had doctored the photos. The president showed his frustration with press coverage of his wife during an interview this week with a conservative online news organization.

"If our first lady, if I were a Democrat instead of a Republican, she'd be Jackie O times twenty. Instead, they go after her," Trump told Breitbart News in Monday's interview. Trump was referring to President John F. Kennedy's wife, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, who often was referred to as "Jackie O" after she remarried following Kennedy's assassination.

Several factors can influence the way people appear in photos, including the angle at which the photos are taken, the type of camera lens that is used and the positioning of the photographer, said Akili Ramsess, executive director of the National Press Photographers Association.

News images are not to be altered beyond basic toning and cropping, she said.

"Manipulation is against photojournalism ethics," Ramsess said, adding that most newsrooms follow the ethics guidelines on the association's website. "Photographers or editors can be fired over such manipulation."

The "FakeMelania" hashtag has been around since at least 2017, Trump's first year in office, with Twitter searches producing numerous photos of the first lady and unfounded commentary that the woman in the images is not Melania Trump.

Toward the end of the debate on "The View," contributor Ana Navarro-Cardenas, who opposes Trump, said: "Let's have fun with Melania. She's beautiful, and we're doing this in jest." Abby Huntsman, a Republican on the panel, followed up by asking, "Does that make it better?" That prompted co-host Joy Behar, who also disapproves of Trump, to say: "We're not here to be better people. We're here to have a good laugh."

Stephanie Grisham, the first lady's spokeswoman, said the episode "went beyond the petty mean-girl spirit that we've grown accustomed to."

"People died, people lost family, people are hurting in Alabama," Grisham said Wednesday in an email. "I personally watched the president and first lady hug, listen to and comfort people who had lost everything - and the 'ladies' of The View instead chose to laugh and joke about a body-double conspiracy."

An ABC spokesman declined to comment.

Judge allows courtroom cameras for trial of R. Kelly

CHICAGO (AP) — Cameras will be allowed in the courtroom during the trial and pretrial hearings in R. Kelly's sexual abuse case, but the R&B singer's accusers can't be photographed or filmed without their consent, a judge ruled Friday.

The Grammy-winning singer didn't attend the brief hearing in Cook County Circuit Court, but his lawyer did.

Associate Judge Lawrence Flood said cameras will be allowed going forward, beginning with the next hearing on March 22. He also said two accusers have already said they don't want to be photographed or filmed in court.

Kelly, 52, has pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse pertaining to four women, including three who were minors at the time the abuse allegedly occurred. The abuse in question is alleged to have occurred over roughly a decade, starting in the late 1990s.

Kelly has been trailed for decades by allegations that he victimized women and girls, though he was acquitted of child pornography charges in 2008 related to a tape that prosecutors said showed him having sex with a girl as young as 13.

He and his attorneys have repeatedly denied allegations of sexual misconduct, and he has pleaded not guilty to the charges. In a recent TV interview, Kelly pleaded with viewers to believe that he never had sex with anyone under age 17 and never held anyone against their will.

Cook County, which includes Chicago, has started allowing cameras in its courtrooms in recent years.

Another judge in the same courthouse has yet to decide if he'll allow cameras in the courtroom for the trial of "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett, who is accused of lying to police about being the victim of a racist and homophobic attack.

Cameras were allowed in court during the trial of Jason Van Dyke, a white former Chicago police officer who was convicted of murder in the shooting death of a black teenager, Laquan McDonald.

Jussie Smollett pleads not guilty to lying about attack

CHICAGO (AP)—"Empire" actor Jussie Smollett pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges accusing him of lying to the police about being the victim of a racist and homophobic attack in downtown Chicago a few weeks ago.

Smollett

Lawyer Tina Glandian entered the plea on behalf of the 36-year-old actor during a hearing in Cook County Circuit Court after Judge Steven Watkins was assigned to oversee the case, including the trial.

Watkins granted Smollett's request to be allowed to meet with lawyers in New York and California, but said the actor must give the court at least 48 hours' prior notice. He scheduled the next hearing for April 17.

Smollett, who left the courthouse without speaking to reporters, is charged with 16 counts of disorderly conduct.

Prosecutors allege that Smollett, who is black and gay and plays the gay character Jamal Lyon on the hit Fox TV show, hired two friends to help him stage the attack on him in downtown Chicago early on the morning of Jan. 29. They say Smollett was unhappy about his salary and wanted to drum up publicity to help his career.

Smollett has denied that he staged the attack and maintains he is innocent. His attorneys have called the charges against him "prosecutorial overkill."

There were several supporters outside the courthouse doors as Smollett arrived for the hearing, including some who waved signs. Activist Wisdom Cole led a few chants in support of the actor, the black community and the LGBT community.

"Jussie has been a person of high caliber and character. He comes from an activist family. He has a consistent track record and history of supporting marginalized people ... and so his track record is not on par with the idea of a hoax," she said.

James Gunn rehired to direct 'Guardians of the Galaxy 3'

NEW YORK (AP)—Months after being fired over old tweets, James Gunn has been rehired as director of "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3."

Representatives for the Walt Disney Co. and for Gunn on Friday confirmed that Gunn has been reinstated as writer-director of the Marvel franchise he has guided from the start. Gunn was fired last July over tweets from nearly a decade ago in which Gunn joked about subjects like pedophilia and rape.

Gunn

Gunn earlier apologized for the tweets, which he called "unfortunate efforts to be provocative." Disney Chairman Alan Horn at the time said Gunn's words were inconsistent with the studio's values. The comments, made from 2008 to 2011, were brought to light by far-right propagandists Mike Cernovich and Jack Posobiec who combed through Gunn's social media history after Gunn's criticism of President Donald Trump.

But Gunn's dismissal was passionately protested by many. Fan petitions circulated online. The "Guardians" cast, including Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper, Zoe Saldana, Vin Diesel and other stars, supported Gunn in an open letter. "Although I don't support James Gunn's inappropriate jokes from years ago, he is a good man," Pratt said.

"I am tremendously grateful to every person out there who has supported me over the last few months," Gunn said in a statement. "I am always learning and will continue to work at being the best human being I can be."

Gunn added a thank you to Disney and said he was excited to "continue making films that investigate the ties of love that bind us all."

Whoopi Goldberg cheered on her return to 'The View'

NEW YORK (AP) — Whoopi Goldberg received a standing ovation from the audience and hugs from her castmates as she returned to "The View."

Goldberg

Goldberg surprised everyone as she appeared on the ABC program Thursday, less than a week after she said in a video that she nearly died of pneumonia.

The audience chanted "Whoopi!" and castmates Joy Behar, Abby Hunstman, Meghan McCain, Sunny Houstin and Ana Navarro leaped out of their seats.

Goldberg says she plans to gradually return to the show as she recovers, saying "I'm not there yet, but the only way it's going to get better is if I begin, so this is my beginning."

The 63-year-old had been absent since Feb. 6. In a video last Friday, she said "I came very, very close to leaving the Earth."

Golden Globe Awards to kick off awards season on Jan. 5

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Hollywood Foreign Press Association says it has chosen a date for next year's Golden Globe Awards.

The association said Friday the 77th annual awards will be held Jan. 5. The ceremony will kick off a condensed awards season with the Oscars moving up their ceremony to Feb. 9, 2020.

In January, the Globes were watched by 18.6 million viewers.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association says its members represent 56 countries.

Pipe tomahawk given by Washington in 1792 loaned to tribe

SALAMANCA, N.Y. (AP) — A long-missing peace pipe tomahawk President George Washington gave to a Seneca leader in the late 18th century has been returned to the tribe in western New York.

Washington gave the combination tobacco-smoking pipe and weapon to Cornplanter as the United States negotiated a peace treaty with the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy.

The artifact eventually wound up at the State Museum in Albany, where it remained until being stolen in the late 1940s.

Last year, an anonymous collector returned the artifact to the museum. Officials there decided to loan it to the Senecas.

Cornplanter's pipe tomahawk was presented Thursday to the Seneca Nation of Indians, who have put the artifact on display in the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum in Salamanca, near the Pennsylvania border 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Buffalo.

AP

This photo March 15, 2019, photo provided by Seneca-Iroquois National Museum in New York shows a long-missing peace pipe tomahawk President George Washington gave to Seneca Indian leader Cornplanter in the late 18th century that has been returned to the tribe in western New York.

Second pregnancy is too much for family asked for support

DEAR ABBY: My niece (age 25), despite numerous warnings against getting pregnant, deliberately did three years ago. This was a result of an affair with a man who is in a live-in relationship with another woman.

My niece ended up in the hospital and had to have some serious surgeries. She lost her job and moved in with my sister and her husband. She's working again, but she and her daughter still live with my sister because she doesn't earn enough to support them (and gets no help from the father). She has recently announced that she's pregnant again by this same man!

My sister says she feels compelled to support my niece because she is concerned about her grandchild(ren). How do the rest of us "opt out," without seeming mean or judgmental? I feel sorry for the strain this is putting on my sister, but she keeps asking family members to help out as she is only working part-time and her husband is on disability. I don't feel it is our responsibility to keep supporting this self-centered, irresponsible adult. HELP, please!

AUNTIE NO MORE

DEAR AUNTIE: Unless you and the rest of the family want to support your niece and all the children she may have, draw the line. Tell your sister that "the family" will chip in ONE MORE TIME, but the money must be used so she and her daughter can consult a lawyer about how to compel the deadbeat dad to assume his responsibilities toward his children. There are also state child support enforcement agencies that can help her.

DEAR ABBY: I started dating my next-door neighbor two years ago. We have known each other for 17 years. We hit it off, and after about a month he was spending every night with me. He's 72 and retired; I'm 55 and work full time. We have a great relationship, but I feel he is stalling about marrying me.

In the beginning, he said if we were together after one year we would talk about selling one or both of our houses and having just one. It hasn't happened. I make his breakfast each morning. Then I go to work and he goes to his house. He comes back at lunch to let my dogs out. When I get home at 5, he comes over and I cook supper. (He does buy some groceries and will start dinner every once in a while.) He then stays until I leave for work the next day. And he's here every weekend, too. He does go home to shower.

I think after two years he should know whether he wants to marry me or not. His last divorce was 20 years ago, and mine was seven years ago. I love him, and he says he isn't putting me off, he just wishes I could be "patient." I think it's stupid to have two houses when he stays with me every night. I pay my own bills, and he pays his. Do you think I'm wasting my time with him?

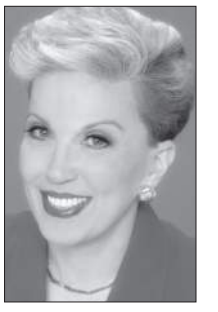
READY FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR READY: Whether you are wasting your time remains to be seen. After two years I don't think you are being "impatient" to want a commitment from him. That's why you both need to have a serious, lay-it-on-the-line discussion about what your goals are. If marriage isn't one of his, he should let you know NOW.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

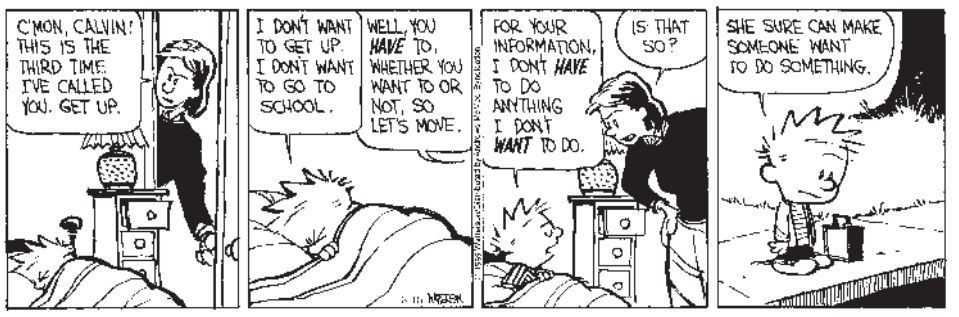


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


C'MON, CALVIN! THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I'VE CALLED YOU. GET UP.
I DON'T WANT TO GET UP. I DON'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL.
WELL, YOU HAVE TO, WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT, SO LET'S MOVE.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING I DON'T WANT TO DO.
IS THAT SO?
SHE SURE CAN MAKE SOMEONE WANT TO DO SOMETHING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WAKE UP, GARFIELD!
THIS BOOK HAS 100! BOREDOM BUSTERS!
POOR JON...
BOREDOM BUSTER NUMBER ONE..."MAKE A DOLLHOUSE OUT OF A SHOEBOX"?
HE MEANS WELL
JIM DAVIS 3-18

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, CLAYTON. DO YOU STILL HAVE MY PHONE?
HUH?
YOU WERE PLAYING THAT GAME. WHERE'D YOU LEAVE IT?
LET'S SEE... I WAS PLAYING, AND THEN I GOT HUNGRY... THEN MY SHOW CAME ON...
HAVE YOU CHECKED IN THE DORITOS BAG?
I'D BE ANGRY. BUT I'VE DONE IT TWICE THIS MONTH.
3-18

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SO, TELL ME... DO YOU LIKE NATURE?
YEAH.
AND HOW ABOUT TREES, IN PARTICULAR? ARE YOU A FAN?
UH, SURE.
GOOD, THEN I DON'T FEEL BAD FOR REUSING YESTERDAY'S TONGUE DEPRESSOR.

CROSSWORD

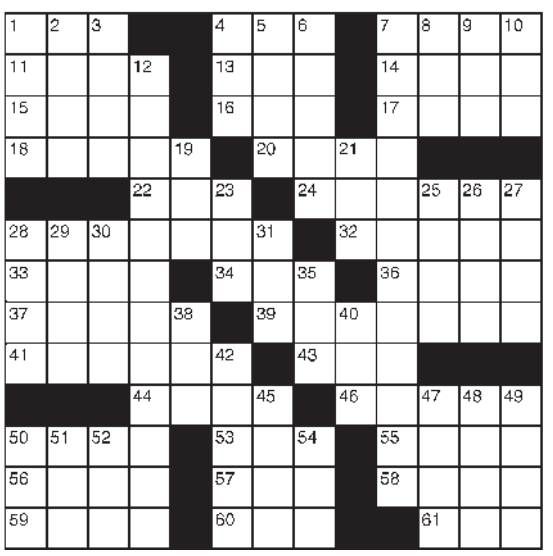
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Entourage" role
4 Owns
7 Top choice, for short
11 Horseshoe site
13 Music booster
14 Pitcher Nolan
15 Choir voices
16 Uncle (Sp.)
17 Congers
18 Explosion
20 Rotunda top
22 Crone
24 Took it easy
28 Kenyan expeditions
32 Amazed
33 Blueprint
34 Opposing vote
36 Sketch
37 Skip a sound
39 Region of southwest France
41 Sewing group
43 Actor Gibson
44 Employ
46 Rushmore figure
50 Hybrid fruit
53 Priestly garment
55 Mystique
56 L-Q bridge
57 Devious
58 Social standing
59 Boxers
60 Shoe width
61 — Angeles

DOWN
1 Melville captain
2 Hamburger holder
3 Greek vowel
4 Stetson, e.g.
5 During
6 Thread holder
7 Without a mortgage, say
8 Pro vote
9 Batman portrayer Kilmer
10 Em halves
12 Popular British dish
19 Sailor
21 Miss Piggy's pronoun
23 Tom Collins liquor
25 Gambling game
26 McGregor of film
27 Like morning grass
28 Detail, briefly
29 "That's — ask"
30 Equitable
31 Droop
35 Candied veggie
38 Yalie
40 Fixed
42 Obliterate
45 Vogue rival
47 Two-way
48 Bond foe
49 Tibetan herd
50 Ref
51 Bearded beast
52 Cabin component
54 "See ya!"

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 03-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lily Collins, 30; Adam Levine, 40; Queen Latifah, 49; Vanessa Williams, 56.

Happy Birthday: The possibilities are endless this year. Embrace change and do your best to expand your interests and knowledge. Altering your personal life or the way you live will help you stabilize your life and your relationships with the people you care about most. Much can be accomplished if you use your energy to make updates and take care of business. Your numbers are 9, 15, 19, 22, 27, 36, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Being understanding will help you avoid a standoff with someone who can jeopardize your position, reputation or chance to advance. You will obtain valuable information if you network. Verify the data received; spice it up to fit your needs. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Consider your objective and get the ball rolling. Focus on what you can do. Refuse to let an emotional matter throw you off schedule. If you are intent on making progress, you will get good results. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make changes at home or to the way you handle responsibilities. Stick to the rules and regulations in order to dodge criticism and complaints. A chance to improve a partnership is possible if you are straightforward and willing to compromise. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Forge into the future with great optimism. Consider new ways to solve old problems, discuss your ideas with someone who can help you make your dreams come true. A helping hand someone offers will turn into a worthwhile partnership. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't let the changes others make disturb you. Concentrate on the things you enjoy doing and develop a better emotional rapport with someone you'd like to get to know better. Refuse to let your emotions interfere with your responsibilities or reputation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get in the game. Refuse to let anyone sideline you by promising the impossible and winning over your support. Be upfront about what you can offer, and throw in an incentive to those who stand by you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Your actions will be what prompt others to pitch in and help. Personal improvements, both emotionally and physically, will lead to an unexpected opportunity. A romantic gesture will bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Traveling, communicating and networking will spark ideas that will encourage you to make personal changes you've been considering for some time. Watch your spending habits to avoid problems with someone you share expenses with. A career change looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Observing will help you avoid being taken advantage of by someone who tends to exaggerate. Walk away from gossip and those who play mind games. Personal gains will come your way if you are cautious and rely on yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An unexpected change at home will make you consider your options. A closer look will reveal that you can actually benefit from what transpired. Slow down and make changes that will protect your finances and your possessions. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be careful; mishaps are possible if you are reckless or let your emotions interfere with your common sense. Explore new ways to be helpful, and channel your energy into doing something constructive. Give-and-take will be fortuitous. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to the basics and the truth. Too much information or exaggerating a situation or circumstance will not help you fix a problem. Say less and do more. The action you take will make a lasting impression on someone important. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, demonstrative and flirtatious. You are popular and proactive. *To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9				1	8	
	1		2	3	6		9	
		7				2		6
					5	3		9
4	5				6		3	2
6			8	1				
9		1				6		
	8		3	4	9		2	
5	3					9		

Difficulty Level ★ 3/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	3	9	5	8	7	4	2	1
5	1	2	9	6	4	7	3	8
8	7	4	3	1	2	5	9	6
3	5	8	2	7	1	9	6	4
7	2	6	8	4	9	3	1	5
4	9	1	6	3	5	8	7	2
9	6	5	4	2	3	1	8	7
1	8	3	7	5	6	2	4	9
2	4	7	1	9	8	6	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE — Solution: 6 letters

Y	T	I	R	A	H	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y
S	B	U	L	C	O	L	O	R	A	D	O	R	Y	L
S	E	A	T	T	L	E	G	D	E	L	P	E	C	O
E	Z	E	E	R	F	R	E	V	I	R	N	S	I	G
K	R	O	Y	W	E	N	O	T	S	O	B	I	Y	O
A	M	A	R	Y	L	A	N	D	M	W	E	A	A	I
L	A	N	R	E	T	A	W	M	I	W	S	R	D	R
Y	W	T	E	D	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	D	S	A
T	A	A	T	P	G	K	A	O	C	E	A	N	R	T
I	R	R	N	M	E	D	D	L	O	C	A	U	A	N
N	E	C	I	A	A	R	S	O	U	T	H	F	E	O
A	N	T	W	N	R	E	T	S	R	U	O	T	Y	E
M	E	I	A	S	B	A	T	H	A	O	P	W	W	K
U	S	C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E	E	N	E	A
H	S	A	N	N	U	A	L	A	E	R	O	K	N	L

© 2019 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 3/18

Annual, Antarctica, Awareness, Bath, Boston, Canada, Challenge, Charity, Clubs, Cold, Colorado, Community, Courage, Donation, Freeze, Fundraise, Gear, Hope, Humanity, Icy, Korea, Lake Ontario, Lakes, Logo, Make-A-Wish, Maryland, Money, New Year's Day, New York, Ocean, Perth, Pledge, River, Seattle, South, Swim, Team, Tours, Towel, Water, Winter, World

Last Friday's Answer: Revolution

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PROPERTY FOR SALE BY OWNERS
Location: Talafofo area close to Kingfisher
SQ. Meters 2086/82
Interested person please call this number:
H: (670) 234-6343
C: (670) 783-1946

For positive results.

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities contact us at 235-6397

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Commercial Cleaner and Maintenance

If interested, bring resume and police clearance to Saipan International School. No telephone calls please.

We are an equal opportunity employer pay no less than the CNMI minimum wage.

WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY has an opening for:

One (1) Associates Sales Representative

Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) and six (6) months of experience as a Salesman or Sales Representative.

Duties: Sells company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. Performs other related duties.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to jtorres@six7one.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three (3) days of hire.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.
Saipan Tribune
FEMA offers temporary relocation
SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE
Please call 235-NEWS

Wireless Ridge Landscaping

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) NURSERY WORKER
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Take care of nursery plants, including propagation and maintenance, proper storage and use fertilizer, and proper storage and application of insecticides. Experience with propagation and care of orchids highly desirable, as well as experience with tropical plants and general nursery related duties. Minimum qualifications: 3 months of related work experience, with a high school or GED diploma.

All positions close 5:00pm on Thursday, March 21, 2019.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume. It should also include a valid Police Clearance no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(In-House Annoucement)

OPENING DATE: March 18, 2019 * CLOSING DATE: April 3, 2019: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2019-002	Loan Specialist I	$23,706.21-$26,131.39- per annum (Classified Position)

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/6866 or by email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Dba: Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant
Kinpachi BBQ Garden Restaurant

Restaurant Supervisor (1): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including holidays, weekends and night time schedules.

Applicants of all positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.
We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

WHATZIT Solution: Head over heels

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS
- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

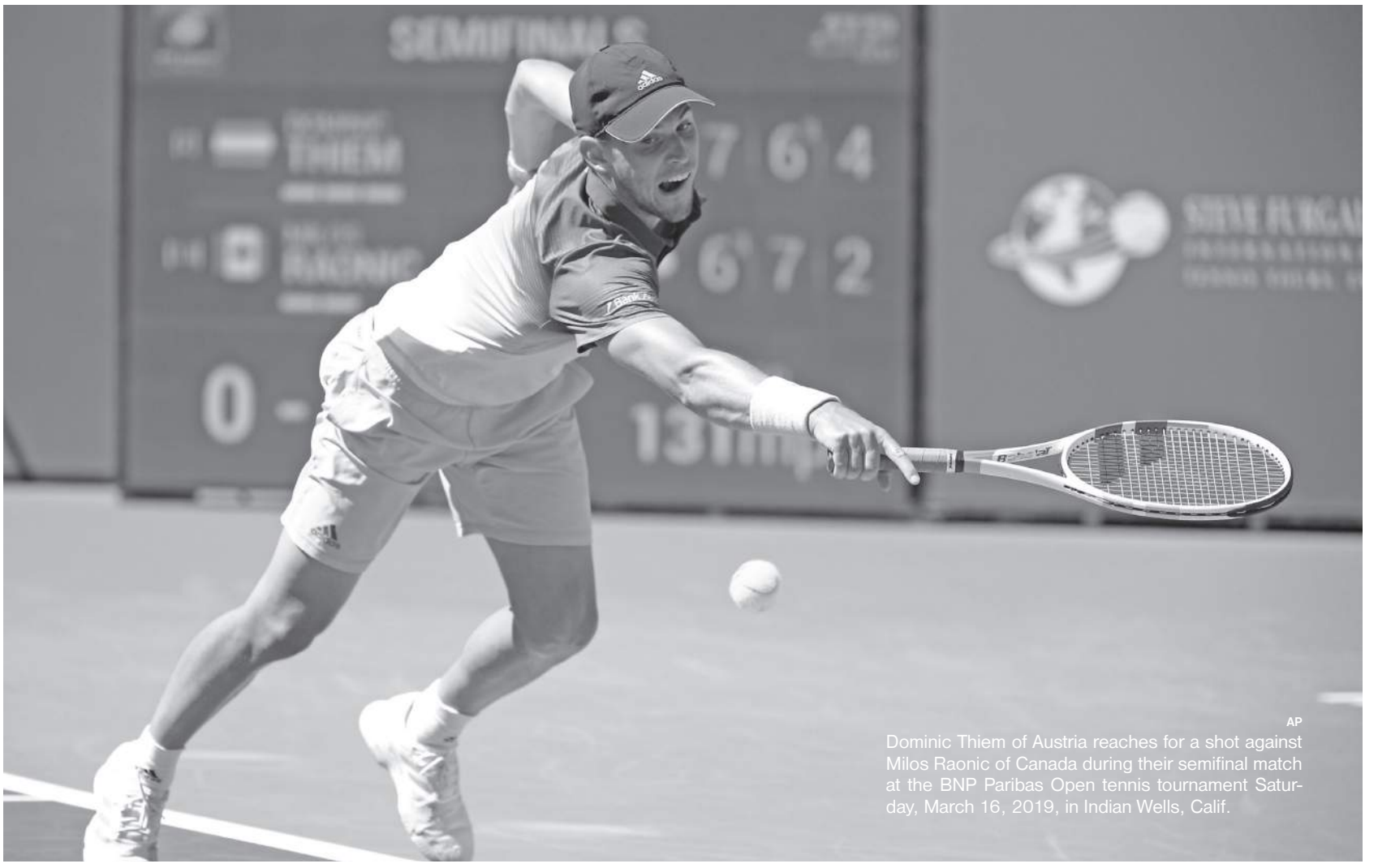
HEAD
HEAL
HEEL
HE'LL

©WHATZIT? & 2018 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Federer vs Thiem in finals after Nadal's withdrawal



AP

Dominic Thiem of Austria reaches for a shot against Milos Raonic of Canada during their semifinal match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Saturday, March 16, 2019, in Indian Wells, Calif.

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)—Dominic Thiem outlasted Milos Raonic 7-6 (3), 6-7 (3), 6-4 on Saturday to reach the BNP Paribas Open final, whilw Roger Federer advanced when Rafael Nadal withdrew because of a knee injury.

A somber Nadal announced his withdrawal a couple hours before he was scheduled to take the court at Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

"I warm up today in the morning, and I felt that my knee was not enough good to compete at the level that I need to compete," he said.

Federer was warming up on another court at the same time as Nadal and figured the match was on. However, Nadal soon texted him it wasn't going to happen.

"It's a big letdown," said Federer, who came on court in khaki shorts and a gray cardigan to address fans. "I know the anticipation is there from the crowd and also us players. I'm excited to be in the finals but not this way."

The 32-year-old Spaniard's right knee flared up in the second set of his 7-6 (2), 7-6 (2) victory over Karen Khachanov on Friday in the quarterfinals. He twice called for a trainer, who applied tape just below Nadal's knee. It was obvious that Nadal's movement was hampered.

Nadal said he won't play again until the Monte-Carlo Masters on clay in mid-April.

"I don't have doubts today that I will be ready for Monte Carlo," he said.

It would have been the 39th career meeting between Nadal and Federer, who seeks a record sixth title at Indian Wells and the 101st in his career on Sunday.

"I know every one we have now could be our last," Federer said. "It's a special rivalry, maybe the most special with Rafa and Novak (Djokovic)."

Sunday's women's final features 18-year-old Canadian wild-card Bianca Andreescu against two-time major champion Angelique Kerber.

Thiem reached the semifinals via walkover after Gael Monfils withdrew from their quarterfinal with a strained left Achilles.

Against Raonic, Thiem earned the only break of the third set in the fifth game. He led 5-3 and served it out, winning on his second match point with a backhand volley.

"The only break point I had to save was in the last game, and that was what I wanted to do, to play my service games well and not let him have too many chances," Thiem said.

Thiem and Federer have split their four previous meetings, with only one going three sets. Federer won the last time they played at the ATP Finals in London in November.

"It's always something special to play him," he said.

Thiem has never won a Masters 1000 title, losing in two previous finals.

Knee problems have dogged Nadal for years, and they cut short his 2018 season after the U.S. Open in September. He was forced to quit two sets into his semifinal against Juan Martin del Potro.

Nadal choked up discussing his withdrawal last fall, and he appeared near tears on Saturday.

He admitted that he sometimes is sad because he feels at a disadvantage against his opponents due to his continued knee issues that force him to limit his practice and playing time.

Then he gathered himself, saying, "It's not the moment to complain much. With all this stuff, I still where I am today."

The year began promisingly enough. Nadal didn't drop a set in reaching his fifth Australian Open final, where he lost to Djokovic. He's ranked No. 2 in the world and has a match record of 11-2.

"Still tough because I felt more or less OK during this beginning of the season in terms of my knee," he said. "Now it starts the process that I have to decide what direction we have to take to recover well and to recover as soon as possible."

Even with all of his injuries, Nadal indicated he has no intention of giving up playing on hard courts, the surface for two of the four Grand Slam events.

"My goal is to play on all the surfaces," he said.

With time to fill before the women's and men's doubles finals, Djokovic and Pete Sampras teamed for a one-set doubles match against John McEnroe and tournament director Tommy Haas. Comedian Jon Lovitz served as chair umpire.

Meanwhile, if you don't know the name Bianca Andreescu yet, you soon will.

The 18-year-old Canadian, an unseeded wild card ranked No. 60 in the world, beat Svitolina 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 to become the first wild card to make the final at the BNP Paribas Open. She is also bidding to become the first teen to win the title at Indian Wells since Serena Williams in 1999 and 2001, as she faces Angelique Kerber in the finals.

Kerber breezed past Belinda Bencic 6-4, 6-2, a day after ousting Venus Williams to set up the semifinal. Bencic had been on a roll, having won 12 matches in a row, but Kerber was the superior player on this night.

Andreescu is a special talent with a game that's equal parts creativity, flair and explosiveness. She dropped the first three games in her BNP Paribas Open semifinal to sixth-seed Elina Svitolina and then rattled off six consecutive games to win the first set 6-3. Svitolina regrouped to force a third set, but showing poise beyond her years, Andreescu shook that off and took the first set to create a little history.

Jaguars give Foles help by signing Conley, Ogbuehi

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—The Jacksonville Jaguars gave new quarterback Nick Foles some help Saturday by signing receiver Chris Conley and right tackle Cedric Ogbuehi.

Conley started 34 of 53 games in four seasons with Kansas City, totaling 104 receptions for 1,238 yards and six touchdowns. He also played with Foles in 2016.

Conley started 13 games last year, finishing with 32 catches for 334 yards and five scores. He missed 11 games in 2017 because of an Achilles tendon injury.

A third-round pick in the 2015 NFL draft, Conley tied the record at the NFL combine for the highest vertical jump (45 inches) by a receiver.

Conley says "this is a tremendous opportunity. Playing with someone you know is one thing, but seeing the talent that we have here in Jacksonville on defense and the talent we have on offense, it's huge."

The 6-foot-5, 308-pound Ogbuehi started 25 of 35 games in four seasons with Cincinnati. He was the 21st overall pick in the 2015 draft.

Ogbuehi fills a huge need created when Jacksonville released veteran Jermey Parnell in a cost-cutting move. The Jaguars didn't have a starting-caliber right tackle on the roster and had been expected to draft one with the seventh overall pick next month.

Ogbuehi should give them the flexibility to consider other options in the first round.

In Arizona, the Cardinals added another piece to their rebuilt offensive line, signing Max Garcia to a one-year contract.

Terms of the deal announced on Saturday were not disclosed.

The 27-year-old Garcia is coming off a torn ACL suffered in practice last November. He's expected to provide depth behind starting guards Justin Pugh and J.R. Sweezy if he recovers from the injury and makes the team.

Garcia played the past four seasons with the Denver Broncos, starting 41 of 57 games. He started all 32 games at left guard for the Broncos between 2016-17 after playing all 16 games as a rookie.

Garcia also played three playoff games, including Super Bowl 50. He was a fourth-round pick out of Florida in the 2015 NFL draft.

In Miami, the Dolphins have traded former starting quarterback Ryan Tannehill to the Tennessee Titans.

Tannehill's agents, SportsTrust Advisors, announced the move Friday afternoon, with the team later confirming and noting he had been signed to a one-year contract.

Blaine Gabbert was released by the Titans in a corresponding move, general manager Jon Robinson said.

Tannehill now becomes the backup quarterback to starter Marcus Mariota after an uneven seven-year stretch in Miami. Most recently, he completed 64.2 percent of his passes for 1,979 yards with 17 touchdowns and nine interceptions in 11 games in 2018.

The Dolphins sent Tannehill and a sixth-round selection in the 2019 draft in exchange for a 2020 fourth-round pick and a 2019 seventh-round selection. The new terms of Tannehill's contract, per reports, include $7 million fully guaranteed for the season, with incentives that could grow that number to $12 million.

Miami used the No. 8 overall selection in the 2012 NFL draft on Tannehill, who instantly became the starter.

Tannehill helped take the Dolphins to the 2016 postseason before suffering a partially torn anterior cruciate ligament. He later missed all of 2017 after he underwent surgery to repair the issue.

"We would like to thank Ryan for his commitment to the Miami Dolphins over the last seven seasons," Dolphins general manager Chris Grier said Friday in a statement. "Ryan is a tireless worker who always put the team first. We wish him the best with the next step of his career."

Warriors roll past Thunder to clinch playoff spot

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —One of Golden State's former MVPs was out, so the other stepped forward.

Stephen Curry picked up the slack for the injured Kevin Durant, scoring 33 points to help Golden State roll past the Oklahoma City Thunder, 110-88 on Saturday night and clinch a playoff spot.

Many Oklahoma City fans hoped for the chance to boo Durant, but the league's No. 4 scorer sat out his second straight game with a sprained right ankle.

Golden State also made up for Durant's absence with defense. Oklahoma City shot 32 percent from the field, its worst percentage of the season, and shot just 13-of-41 on 3-pointers.

"Our intensity and our focus for 48 minutes—we were trying to force them into tough shots," Curry said. "Over the course of the game—especially early in the first quarter—we imposed our will. We did our best to take care of the basketball so they didn't have easy transition opportunities. And we rebounded the ball well. So all things considered, really solid effort, knowing that if you give them momentum in this building, they are tough."

Klay Thompson scored 23 points and DeMarcus Cousins added 12 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the Warriors.

Paul George had 29 points and 13 rebounds, and Dennis Schroder added 15 points for the Thunder.

Russell Westbrook scored just seven points on 2-for-16 shooting and missed all seven of his 3-point attempts. He had nine assists and eight rebounds, but Thompson's defense largely took him out of the game.

AP

Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) and Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) defend on a shot by Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George, which was blocked, during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 16, 2019 in Oklahoma City.

Mavericks 121, Cavaliers 116

In Dallas, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 22 points, Dirk Nowitzki closed within four points of Wilt Chamberlain on the NBA scoring list and the Mavericks ended a seven-game losing streak with a victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Nowitzki got hot early in the fourth quarter and finished with 14 points to bring him to the cusp of Chamberlain for sixth place on the career scoring list. He has another home game on Monday before the team leaves on a three-game road trip.

The Mavericks ended a seven-game losing streak and won for just the second time in 14 games.

Spurs 108, Trail Blazers 103

In San Antonio, DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points and the San Antonio Spurs extended their winning streak to eight games with a victory over the Portland Trail Blazers, who lost C.J. McCollum to a left leg injury.

Damian Lillard scored 34 points for Portland, which had won three straight.

McCollum exited under assistance with 7:03 remaining in the third quarter. He remained on the court for a few minutes clutching his left leg in great pain after tumbling out of bounds when his driving layup was blocked by Jakob Poeltl.

Suns 138, Pelicans 136, OT

In New Orleans, Josh Jackson hit a tying 3-pointer with 2 seconds left in overtime, the Pelicans were assessed a technical foul when they called a timeout they didn't have and Devin Booker hit the free throw to give Phoenix the lead for good.

Booker finished with 40 points to go with 13 assists, and Jackson, who had 19 points, scored the game's final point on a free throw after he was fouled on an inbound pass with less than a second on the clock.

Elfrid Payton had 16 points, 16 assists and 13 rebounds in his fourth straight triple-double—all coming in the midst of New Orleans' six-game losing streak.

Jazz 114, Nets 98

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 24 points, Rudy Gobert added 23 points and 17 rebounds, and Utah beat Brooklyn.

Derrick Favors had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Jazz. Jae Crowder and Ricky Rubio added 12 points apiece as Utah won its third straight game, holding Brooklyn to 35 percent shooting and finishing with a 65-44 advantage on rebounds.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 22 points and D'Angelo Russell added 20 for Brooklyn. The Nets dropped their second in a row after winning four straight.

Celtics 129, Hawks 120

In Boston, Kyrie Irving just missed his second straight triple-double with 30 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, Jaylen Brown scored 23 points with a key 3-pointer and Boston held off Atlanta after blowing a 25-point, second-half lead.

Marcus Morris had 19 points and Jayson Tatum 18 for Boston, which has won six of eight.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 26 points, John Collins scored 20 with 11 rebounds, Taurean Price had 17 points and Vince Carter scored 16.

Wizards 135, Grizzlies 128

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 40 points for the second straight night and Washington beat Memphis.

Beal shot 12 of 17 from the field and made a career-high nine 3-pointers. The Wizards converted 17 of 35 from beyond the arc in a game that featured 20 lead changes.

The Wizards, 11th in the Eastern Conference, moved within three games of eighth-place Miami.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	49	20	.710	—
Philadelphia	44	25	.638	5
Boston	43	27	.614	6.5
Brooklyn	36	35	.507	14
New York	13	56	.188	36
Central Division				
x-Milwaukee	52	17	.754	—
Indiana	44	26	.629	8.5
Detroit	35	33	.515	16.5
Chicago	19	51	.271	33.5
Cleveland	17	53	.243	35.5
Southeast Division				
Miami	32	36	.471	0.0
Orlando	32	38	.457	1
Charlotte	31	37	.456	1
Washington	30	40	.429	3
Atlanta	24	46	.343	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Golden State	47	21	.691	—
LA Clippers	40	30	.571	8.0
Sacramento	33	35	.485	14
LA Lakers	31	38	.449	16.5
Phoenix	17	54	.239	31.5
Southwest Division				
Houston	43	26	.623	—
San Antonio	41	29	.586	2.5
New Orleans	30	42	.417	14.5
Dallas	28	41	.406	15
Memphis	28	42	.400	15.5
Northwest Division				
Denver	46	22	.676	—
Portland	42	27	.609	4.5
Oklahoma City	42	28	.600	5
Utah	40	29	.580	6.5
Minnesota	32	37	.464	14.5

x- clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rahm storms into lead at Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Jon Rahm can't think of a shot he missed Saturday in his round of 8-under 64 that took him from five shots behind to one shot ahead of Rory McIlroy and Tommy Fleetwood in The Players Championship.

The one bogey he made stood out for two reasons.

It was nearly perfect, of course, a sand wedge into No. 6 that tracked the flag and landed next to the pin, except that it took a hard bounce and rolled over the back of the green. And his reaction to a potential birdie turning into bogey spoke to the calm Rahm feels, even on a course designed to fray nerves.

There was no visible frustration, only more great golf.

"I've been working so hard on the mental aspect of my game, trying to keep myself in check a little more," said Rahm, the 24-year-old Spaniard so full of passion. "And I think that has been the key this week. I've been so balanced — nothing like I used to be, nothing like before. I've been really proud of how I've been handling myself.

"And hopefully tomorrow, it shows how different it has been."

Rahm surged ahead with a 30 on the back nine of the TPC Sawgrass, sparked by a 4-iron into 3 feet for eagle and a wedge that stopped 2 feet behind the hole to a front pin on the par-3 17th for a tap-in birdie.

He was at 15-under 201, enough for his first 54-hole lead on the PGA Tour, enough to keep McIlroy and Fleetwood from catching him.

"Didn't miss many shots out there," Rahm said. "Really, really confident with my irons. Every time I stepped up, I felt like I was going to hit a good shot."

McIlroy and Fleetwood struggled from the start and both eventually recovered, McIlroy sooner than Fleetwood, both finishing with a 70 that left them in excellent shape to capture the PGA Tour's biggest event.

Jason Day had a 68 and was three shots behind.

Tiger Woods was five shots better on the par-3 17th—a quadruple bogey on Friday, a 2-foot birdie putt on Saturday—but still started so slowly that even a late run of birdies was only good for a 72. He was 12 shots behind in his last stroke-play event before the Masters.

Five players were within five shots of Rahm, the deficit the Spaniard made up on Saturday. That group included Brandt Snedeker (65) and Keegan Bradley (68), and Dustin Johnson, the No. 1 player in the world who played the par 5s at even and still shot a 69.

Rahm, who already has six worldwide victories in just short of three years as a pro, was still lagging behind when he made the turn, and then quickly moved to the top. After a short birdie on the 10th, he hit 4-iron from 243 yards to 3 feet on a front left pin at the par-5 11th for an eagle. He hit the right shot on the par-3 13th, with the pin below a ridge near the water, into 3 feet for another birdie.

By the end of the day, his 64 was about as high as it could have been. He two-putted from just inside 15 feet for a birdie on the 16th, and he had another birdie chance from about that range on the 18th that would have tied the course record.

No matter. He was in the lead, facing a Sunday pairing with Fleetwood as he goes for the most important win of his young career.

Blue Jays ease past Braves

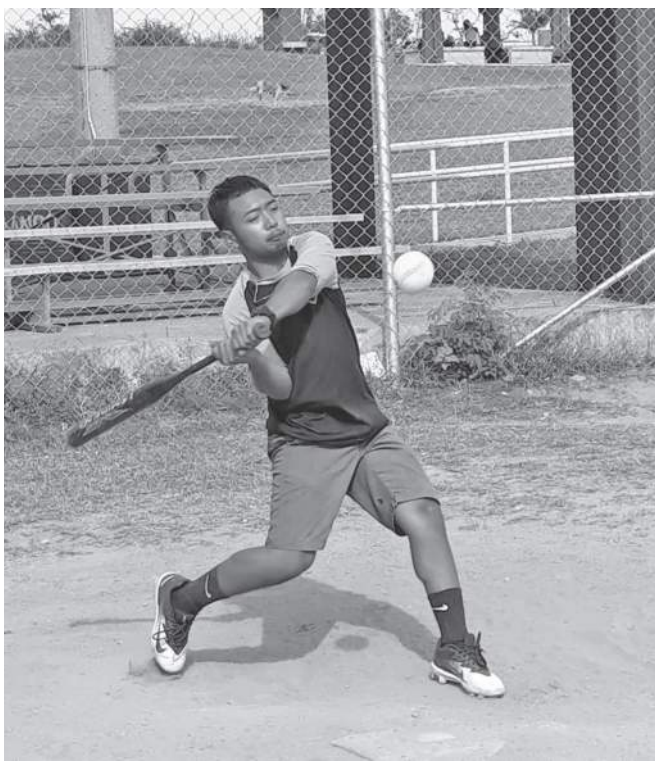
By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Blue Jays ended the regular season on a high note after doubling up the Braves, 17-8, in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fastpitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Behind, 0-3, after the first complete innings, the Blue Jays had a 10-run top of the second and shut down the Braves at the bottom to grab the upper hand. Jordan Babauta kicked off the Braves' outburst in the game-changer second inning with a solo homer, while Henry Fleming blasted a two-run homer later. Fleming's homer allowed James Salalila to make a beeline to home plate. Jun Celis stepped up to the plate after Fleming and earned a triple, while JP Celis fired off a single and sent his younger brother home.

The Braves were able to stop the bleeding in the second inning when they struck out Thomas Agulto, but much of the damage had already been dealt.

In the third and fourth innings, both teams stayed relatively silent, as the Blue Jays only managed to score once, while the Braves were shut out. The Braves then showed some signs of life in the fifth inning, as Awang Tudela's homer sent J.J. Sablan and Kyle Kapileo home. Boss Camacho rounded out the Braves' four-run bottom of the fifth inning to cut the deficit to four, 7-11.



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

The Blue Jays' Jordan Babauta is set to hit the ball during their game against the Braves in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

.

However, the Blue Jays iced the game after scoring six runs in the last two innings. Cody Foreman had a two-run homer in the seventh inning to close things out for the Blue Jays. Salalila, Fleming, and JP Celis also scored for the Blue Jays in the final inning.

With the victory, the Blue Jays finished the season as the No. 2 team with their 4-2 record, while the Braves came in at third with their 3-3 card.

Meanwhile, weather permitting, the Braves and Blue Jays will meet again and this time in a playoff matchup this Saturday at 2pm. The winner of the do-or-die bout will advance to the finals on Mar. 30 and play against the top-ranked Falcons (5-1).

Rooney makes hat trick, DC United routs Real Salt Lake

WASHINGTON (AP)— Wayne Rooney had a hat trick and added an assist to help D.C. United beat nine-man Real Salt Lake 5-0 on Saturday night.

Rooney converted a penalty to open the scoring in the 34th minute. Marcelo Silva brought down Paul Arriola in the 18-yard box and the penalty was confirmed after video review. Rooney chipped a shot into the right corner in the 35th minute, and made it 3-0 in the 65th.

Lucas Rodriguez scored in the 76th and Ulises Segura capped the scoring in the 80th.

Bill Hamid had his third shutout in three games for D.C. United (2-0-1).

Real Salt Lake dropped to 1-1-1. Jefferson Savarino was shown red in first-half stoppage time for a high kick, and received a second yellow card and was sent off in the 67th minute.

Galaxy 3, Minnesota United 2

In Carlson, Jonathan dos Santos and Chris Pontius scored first-half goals and Los Angeles held on to beat Minnesota.

Dos Santos scored on a penalty kick to open the scoring in the 36th minute. Osvaldo Alonso conceded the penalty, taking down Uriel Antuna in the 18-yard box. Chris Pontius doubled the lead for the Galaxy (2-1-0) in the 41st minute, redirecting Rolf Feltscher's cross.

Minnesota United (2-1-0) pulled within one in the 75th minute when Jan Gregus fired home a right-footed shot from beyond the right side of the penalty area that beat goalkeeper David Bingham.

Sebastian Lletget made it 3-1 in the 81st. Angelo Rodríguez scored for Minnesota in the 87th.

KNIGHTS

From Page 28

ern comeback after swishing home one triple apiece to start the second canto. However, the Knights fired back and scored 21 points in that quarter, as they had firm control of the game by the halftime break, 52-26. Richardson continued his strong play after drilling 6 points, while Johnson and Keith Santos chipped in 4 apiece.

When the game resumed, the Knights pulled away from the Mantas even more, behind Richardson's 14-point outburst in the third quarter. Richardson, who missed their first duel against Saipan Southern due to injury, scored MCS' first 10 points in the penultimate canto to cause more problems to the Mantas' defense. Knights captain Angelo Factor put the cherry on top in the third canto by knocking a 3-pointer and a contested layup.

With the win, MCS upped their record to 7-3, which is good for third place in the division. Despite the loss, the Manta Rays retained the No. 2 spot in the rankings with their 8-2 mark.

Meanwhile, Kagman High School hosted MCS 2 and did not disappoint, as the former leaned on their reserves for the easy win, 58-34.

The Ayuyus employed a balanced attack, as Anthony Agulto, Cris Sacdalan, and Edward Reyes scored 8 markers apiece. Presley Augustino, Koy Kaipat, and Juan Quitano added 6 points each to help power their team to victory No. 11 out of 12 games. Kagman remains on top of the team standings, while the Knights 2 tumbled to a 3-8 card and are now tied with Grace Christian Academy for sixth place.

In other results, Agape Christian School 1 blew out Agape 2, 124-30.

Kobe Yang, Silas Xu, Jonathan Xiong, and Peter Wang tallied 26, 24, 23, and 21 points, respectively to hammer Agape 2. Two more Agape 1 players finished in double figures with James Jing logging 11 and and Jerry Yuan recording 10.

Agape 1 now has a 6-3 mark, while Agape 2 fell to a 0-11 slate.

In today's games, GCA's girls and boys teams will host the Lady Knights and MCS 1 at Navy Hill, while SSHS and MCS 2 will face off at the Koblerville Gymnasium. Over at the Agape's court, ACS 1 will be battling SIS and ACS 2 will be lacing up against Kagman.

MCS 84—Richardson 28, Johnson 17, Factor 10, Dela Cruz 8, Park 7, Santos 6, Evangelista 4, Kiser 2, Ong 1, Tabora 1.

SSHS 64—Contreras 16, Lagmay 11, Ordona 9, Perez 8, Villarin 8, Deleon Guerrero 6, Atalig 2, Calage 2, Matalog 2.

Scoring by quarters: 31-14, 52-26, 73-47, 83-64.

WOO

From Page 28

Elliot first topped Serin Chung last Friday, 6-1, 6-3, and then secured the sweep after outclassing Helen Kim last Sinday, 7-5, 6-0. Kim settled for the runner-up honors, as she earlier survived Chung in an extended game, 6-1, 4-6, 10-7.

In other results, Juncheol Hwang and Nason Wessel advanced to the finals of the boys U12 singles.

Hwang bagged the finals ticket at the upper half of the draw after ousting Wataru Kadokura, 6-1, 6-1. Kadokura moved into the semis following a 6-3, 7-6 win over Takeru Jim. Wessel also needed only two sets to down Jun Yu, 6-0, 6-0, and enter the finals. Wessel earlier zoomed past Vlad Van Der Maas in the first round, 6-2, 6-0, and was scheduled to duel Hwang in the finals yesterday, but results of their match were unavailable as off press time.

GOVT

From Page 28

havoc not only to houses, but also to business and other commercial establishments, gravely affecting the Commonwealth's revenues.

"As you know, Super Typhoon Yutu caused major damage to homes, businesses, and our islands' recreational facilities, while displacing many of our residents. Damage assessments indicate that the recovery period will continue for the next three years at least. However, with the low supply of construction workers to rebuild our homes and facilities, the recovery may take even longer," Torres said in his letter to White.

"After conducting a preliminary assessment of our islands' recreational and athletic facilities, as well as having conversations with you, the NMSA, and community sports leaders, we do not reasonably believe that we can host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games to the standards mandated by the Pacific Games Council."

The Category 5 storm ripped apart the island's major sports facilities. The Oleai Sports Complex, the proposed main hub of the Games, needs major repairs to its facilities, including the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field, Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Softball Field, and the fence around the track and field oval and the complex itself.

Business activities on the islands also stood to almost a standstill, as hotels received cancellations from tourists in the CNMI's main markets in China and South Korea. Inbound flights were temporarily halted, too with the Air Traffic Control Tower and other facilities at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport also suffered extensive damage.

Acting Department of Finance secretary David DLG Atalig provided proof of the slow economic activity when he informed Torres that there would be a 4.7-percent projected shortfall in revenues.

When the CNMI, through NMSA, submitted a bid to host the 2021 Mini Games, its proposal included the estimated costs ($1,160,000) of holding the event on Saipan and the government may be asked to fork out $250,000, while the rest will come from participation fees from the 22 nations and private sector sponsorships.

Meanwhile, Torres said the decision to withdraw the government support for the hosting of Mini Game was disappointing since the CNMI will lose the opportunity of being the only second Micronesian nation to host the Mini Games (after Palau in 2005).

The governor acknowledged that the Games does not only promote the spirit of athletic competition but also brings together the people from different islands in the Pacific.

"To [also] promote a healthy lifestyle through the celebration of sports and the human spirit. I wholeheartedly support the [PGC's] goals and believe that this event is a great way of fostering our youth to be more active and engaged in athletics. Sports, and in particular athletics, provide opportunities for competitors and spectators alike. It unifies different cultures and backgrounds around a shared sense of human achievement, and it motivates people to better themselves physically, mentally, and spiritually," he said.

Torres added that Yutu was really an unfortunate timing for the CNMI, but he assured that his administration remains committed to NMSA's future plans.

"While the impact that sports and athletics have on a community and a region is profound, the unfortunate timing of Super Typhoon Yutu has shifted our community's focus to recovery and rebuilding. It is our hope that the CNMI can host the Games in the future, when we can have stronger infrastructure, upgraded athletic facilities, and better accommodations for our athletes and their families. I look forward to working with you and our community sports partners on the future plans of CNMI sports and athletic promotion," Torres said.

The CNMI government support is required in moving forward with the hosting of the Pacific Mini Games. With this latest development, it's now up to NMSA to inform the Pacific Games Council of Saipan's official withdrawal from the hosting of the quadrennial event.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan at 2019 Saipan Marathon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, left, joins Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan staff and officials for a photo before the start of the 2019 Saipan Marathon held last March 9.

Ador Dimaano celebrates his 10K finish.

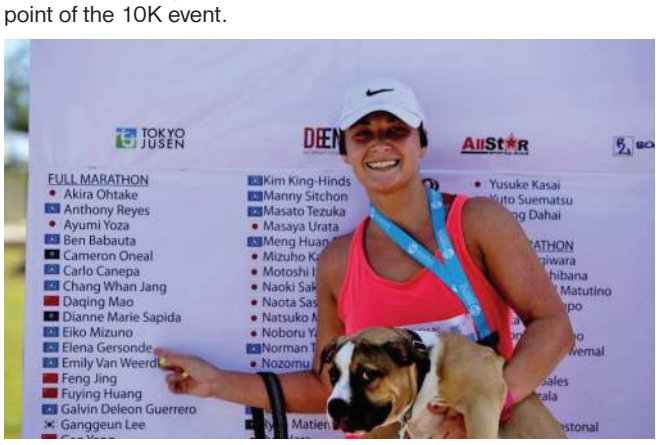
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B manager Das Krishnan is about to finish the 10K race.

Edgardo Casing approaches the 10K turnaround point along Beach Road.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendi Herring hands over a cup of water to a small group of runners headed by Bishop Ryan Jimenez, second left.

Gerald Maliwanag smiles, as he makes his way to the turnaround point of the 10K event.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendi Herring, standing second right, joins her staff members for a group photo at the hotel's volunteer tent as they prepare to assist participants in the 2019 Saipan Marathon.



Elena Gersonde points to her name listed on the finishers roll of the full marathon event.

Federer vs Thiem in finals after Nadal's withdrawal

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Warriors roll past Thunder to clinch playoff spot

PAGE 25

Govt withdraws support for Mini Games hosting

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has withdrawn its commitment to support Saipan's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in a letter sent to Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael A. White last week, regretfully informed NMSA that the withdrawal is largely in part of the destruction brought by Yutu. *Saipan Tribune* tried to get comments from White, but he has yet to respond as of press time.

The CNMI is in recovery mode with Yutu wreaking

See GOVT on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Oleai Sports Complex fence was left in shambles after Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan last year, while the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield also sustained massive damage from the Category 5 storm.

Knights avenge first round loss to Mantas

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Mt. Carmel School 1's Matthew Richardson takes off for a layup against two Saipan Southern High School defenders during their game in the CCOPSA caging last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School 1 sought revenged against Saipan Southern High School and got it after cruising to an 84-64 victory in their game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League last Friday at Koblerville Gymnasium.

After the Manta Rays gutted out a close win over the Knights (54-48) in their first meeting last Feb. 27, the latter came back with vengeance in mind and dominated the former from the opening tip to the final stage of the match.

Mikel Johnson and Matthew Richardson delivered for Mt. Carmel 1 in the first period, as they scored 9 and 8 points, respectively, to lift their team to a 31-14 lead. Chioni Dela Cruz also had a good start in the opening frame after making 6 fastbreak points.

Down by 17, Christopher Lagmay and Rafael Ordona tried to spark a Saipan South-

See KNIGHTS on Page 26

Woo clinches boys U16 title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ji Min Woo swept Sean Lee in the finals, 6-0, 6-2, to earn the boys U16 singles title in the 19th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships yesterday at the PIC Saipan hard court.

Woo defeated two other opponents in straight sets to rule the division. The No. 1 seed first eased past Eugene Park, 6-1, 6-1, to make it to the semifinals. Park set up a quarterfinal game against Woo following a 6-4, 6-2 triumph over Daniel Heo. Then in the semis, Woo downed Sam Ryu, 6-2, 6-3, to notch the first finals berth at the upper half of the draw. Ryu before bowing to Woo, posted a 7-5, 4-6, 10-5 victory over Andy Kim—a 6-3, 6-4 winner against Jun Wang in the earlier round of the top half of field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jimin Woo goes for a baseline return to Sean Lee during their boys U16 singles title game in the 19th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships yesterday at the PIC Saipan hard court.

At the bottom half, Lee drew a bye in the opener and marched into the finals after eliminating Richard Steele, 6-3, 6-1, and Daniel Kang, 6-2, 7-5. Steele won over Gang Min, 6-4, 6-4, to arrange a quarterfinal duel against Lee, while Kang prevailed over Isaac Heo, 6-3, 6-0, to earn a semis spot. Heo, earlier, slipped past Maria Gregoire, 3-6, 6-4, 10-2, for a Round of 8 meeting against Kang.

Meanwhile, Hyen Jin Elliot won the round-robin girls U14 singles event after going unbeaten in two games.

See WOO on Page 26